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Chancellor is cautiously hopeful over pay limit

Mr Healey told the Cabinet, yesterday that, judging by the agreements made so far under the present phase of the pay policy, there was hope of holding wage settlements at about the Government's limit. The policy received support during the day when the bakery workers ended their dispute and the busmen and merchant seamen accepted offers said to be within the guidelines.

Inflation may be cut sooner than expected

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

In a review of progress made so far in the present phase of the pay policy, the Cabinet received a fairly encouraging report yesterday from Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and other ministers directly involved about the prospects of holding earnings rise settlements at about the Government's guidelines.

It was an interim assessment because not many wage bargains have been made yet, but judging by those that have been made it seemed that the figure is running at 11.5 to 12 per cent. That is not regarded as being a serious setback.

Mr Healey said that most of the important settlements would come between February and April next year, and they might alter the prediction a great deal. But the agreement reached on the local authority, manual workers' claim, which was within the pay guidelines, is expected to set the pattern for many future settlements, including that of the National Health Service workers.

Provided the present pattern can be maintained, Mr Healey said, the inflation rate could be brought down to a single figure by the spring, perhaps earlier than has been expected, and that it would be held below a tenth for the remainder of next year. Again, a strong caveat was entered about the level of next year's wage settlements.

After a three-hour discussion, ministers apparently decided that things were going reasonably well and there was no need to consider a change in policy, or to introduce special measures relating to lower-paid workers, who have been the particular concern of Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment.

He has been arguing for a plan that would give a guaranteed minimum pay increase of about 4 a week to those

earning below £40 a week which, in some groups, would be well outside the guidelines. Mr Callaghan and other ministers thought that the main point to be emphasized now was that, against the background of a falling inflation rate and the present level of wage settlements, all workers can expect an increase in their standard of living next year, for the first time since 1975.

According to figures given to the Cabinet yesterday there are no grounds for suggesting, as some opposition spokesmen and Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester, have done, that the real increase in earnings is running at an average of 17 to 17 1/2 per cent and that the inflation rate is bound to increase again in the second half of next year.

The Treasury has put forward estimates of the consequences that would follow if earnings increase by 10 per cent overall, or by 15 per cent. Mr Healey has said privately that he would reckon the present phase of the pay policy will have been worth while if the final result turns out to be closer to 10 than 15 per cent.

Ministers heard about some "aberrations" from the guidelines, but they were not regarded as being too damaging to the general trend.

The Chancellor emphasized that the period between February and April would be the real testing time. That was why he and his colleagues could give no firm guidance about the rate of inflation in the latter part of next year.

It was probably for that reason that some ministers indicated afterwards that they thought the concession had been an unduly high one, but generally the mood was one of optimism and good hope for the future.

No attempt was made to look ahead to phase four of the pay policy, the assumption being that a general election will take place before that becomes a burning issue.

Bakers call off ban on overtime

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The bakery workers' overtime ban was called off yesterday when bread supplies will be normal almost everywhere from today.

The decision resulted from a hurriedly convened meeting of opinion among the union's 57,000 members in England and Wales on a revised pay offer that emerged from 11 hours of talks with the employers on Wednesday.

Throughout yesterday the union's 102 branches telephoned their responses to the head office in Hatfield. The Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union announced early in the afternoon that there was a "massive majority" in favour of acceptance.

A union statement said: "After consulting the majority of the executive we find we are left with no alternative but to instruct our members to resume normal working forthwith."

The revised offer is being studied by the Department of Employment but the employers are confident that it does not breach the 10 per cent guideline on earnings rises.

The Bakers' Federation expressed "considerable relief" at the decision. The offer varies for the six groups of bakery workers. For a typical production operative the basic of £28.50 will go up by £4 and £5.05 of the present supplement of £12.90 a week will be consolidated, so that they count in overtime and premium pay calculations.

Radicals disrupt Rome ceremony

Rome, Dec 22.—The solemn ceremony held to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the approval of the Italian constitution was interrupted today by leading members of the small but influential Radical Party.

Busmen and seamen accept 10pc

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The Government received modest encouragement for its pay policy yesterday when 85,000 busmen and 34,000 merchant seamen.

Delegates representing staff of the National Bus Company, the Scottish Bus Group and independent operators voted to accept a 10 per cent pay offer.

Representatives of the 6,500 National Union of Railwaymen members covered by the deal voted against acceptance, but a majority of mainly Transport and General Workers' Union members carried the day.

A ballot of National Union of Seamen's members was in favour of accepting 10 per cent, extra leave and a productivity supplement.

The dollar staged a strong recovery yesterday after President Carter said the American government would intervene on the foreign exchange markets to protect the currency if necessary. He also said steps would be taken to reduce the country's trade deficit and cut the oil import bill. Sterling dropped by nearly three cents on the day to close at \$1.855, with the effective rate down 0.4 at 61. However, dealers said the market's view of the pound would not become clear until the new year.

Dollar recovers on President's support speech

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Sports choice vetoed by Minister

The Sports Council's appointment of the Rev Nicolas Stacey as its next director has been vetoed by Mr Howell, Minister of State for Sport. The Ministry has not disclosed a reason. Mr Stacey, a former international sprinter and finalist in the 1952 Olympics, is director of social services for Kent.

Police initiative fails to halt wave of racial violence against Asians

An increasing number of racial attacks against Asians are taking place in the East End of London, despite special police measures aimed at preventing them. Michael Horsnell and Penny Symon report.

Mr Shomay, Ali, could no longer stand the agony of racial violence against him and his family after one of his young daughters had been kicked on her way to the shops to buy some ice-cream. For Mr Ali, a Bengali, aged 45, isolated in a community of whites in a council block in the East End, it was the culmination of a vicious campaign of harassment aimed at forcing him to leave.

Stones had been thrown through his windows, eggs and tomatoes at his wife and four children, and the whole family had been frequently jostled and abused. Mr Ali went to the Greater London Council and was rehoused.

The experience of the Ali family is only one episode in a wave of racial violence against Asians in the area, which reached a peak earlier this year. Inquiries by The Times show that despite a new approach taken by the police in the summer after protests to the Home Office by the Bangladesh High Commission, indictable assaults have remained at what community leaders regard as an alarming level.

Police attempts to encourage

the 7,000 to 10,000 Asians who live in the East End to report all assaults also appear to have failed so far. We also found that a growing number of Asian children, particularly Sikhs living just outside the East End in Leyton and Walthamstow, are taking part in self-defence classes arranged for them.

Cases of violence against Asians in the East End, as reported by The Times, include: An attack on Mr Samad Khan, aged 45, a tailor and president of the Bangladesh Association. He was rushed by three youths, one of whom threw a bottle at his head, but he escaped. This sort of thing is commonplace, so I knew it would be useless to report it to the police," he told us.

An assault on Mr Shakur Miah, aged 20, who was rushed by a crowd of white youths and stabbed in the right shoulder. His relatives are incensed by the fact that the attack took place at 5.45 pm in a busy street. No one came forward as a witness.

Mr Subh Choudhury, aged 27, a waiter, was attacked by four youths on his way to a telephone box. Two of them held his arms while the others punched him in the face.

An attack on Mr Rahat Ullah, aged 63, by three youths at the entrance of the block of flats where he lives. He was left with a broken nose and other facial injuries. It was the second attack he had suffered. Unusually, two of the three attackers were black. An elderly man was kicked to the ground by two youths at midnight and lost four teeth. He received other head injuries.

Of all indictable assaults reported to the police last year in Tower Hamlets, the borough at the heart of the East End, comprising the tough districts of Stepney, Poplar and Bethnal Green, about an eighth were against Asians.

That proportion rose to about a fifth during the first six months of this year, when 42 out of 216 assaults reported to police were against Asians.

After consultations with the Home Office the police decided in June to introduce home beat officers to the Spitalfields district, one of the most violent.

A liaison committee of police and local community leaders was set up to encourage Asian victims of assault to report to the police. That committee has been meeting monthly since September, but is regarded as unhelpful by some leaders of the Asian community.

Statistics being analysed by lawyers and social workers indicate that the ratio of attacks on Asians, who are thought to number up to a fourteenth of the population of Tower Hamlets, has not decreased since the police introduced their new measures.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Union fines postmen for Grunwick blockade

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Local members of the Union of Post Office Workers, who defied their national leadership and imposed a small blockade on the Grunwick film processing factory, have been fined a total of £1,300 by a union disciplinary tribunal.

The disciplinary committee has imposed fines ranging from £50 to £500 on key officials who refused to abide by instructions not to interrupt mail to the factory.

The internal union dispute began in August, when the postal section of the union's London area council instructed sorters and delivery men not to handle Grunwick mail after mass picketing began outside the plant in Willesden, north London.

Union leaders, anxious about the effect that such a move would have on their attempt to restore the freedom of postal workers to take strike action in pursuit of a genuine industrial grievance, repeatedly told the rebels not to "black" Grunwick.

The union's disciplinary committee has fined its district organiser, Mr John Taylor, £500, and his assistant Mr Derek Walsh, £400. Further fines of £150 have been levied on 11 members of the London district council, Mr Joseph Nutty and Mr Edward Lee.

In the Cricklewood sorting office, where the effect of industrial action in support of the Grunwick strikers was to cut off postal deliveries to the W2 area, two members of the local union committee, Mr Douglas Taylor and Mr Derek Saunders, have each been fined £50.

The disciplinary committee, which has six members, chosen from the union's executive, based its punishment on union instructions that industrial action should not be taken without the express authority of the executive, particularly in the light of an undertaking in the High Court not to interfere with Grunwick's mail. That pledge had been given after legal action taken by the National Association for Freedom.

The officials who have been fined have three weeks in which to appeal against the penalties. Even if their appeal fails they are permitted time to pay under union rules.

The feeling in senior union circles last night was that the men would not appeal. The union, and its sister in the industry, the Post Office Engineering Union, is relying on government promises to introduce a legal right to strike that has apparently been rejected by the courts.

In the circumstances the union feels confident that such internal disciplinary measures will convince MPs that the postal unions want the right to take industrial action in pursuit of their own ambitions on pay and conditions, rather than to stage secondary boycotts for more distant political ends.

Leading article, page 11



Princess Anne with her son, Peter, after he had been baptized by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Buckingham Palace yesterday. (Court Circular, another photograph, page 12.)

Tate & Lyle sues ATV for libel

By Kenneth Gosling

Proceedings for libel are being taken by Tate and Lyle against ATV Network over Working for Britain, a documentary film, which was shown on the commercial network on Wednesday. ATV said yesterday: "We will strenuously defend the legal action against us."

The film, produced, directed and narrated by Mr Antony Thomas, was one of a series entitled The South African Experience, which was followed by a discussion programme. It is understood that Tate and Lyle's legal action is also concerned with remarks made by Mr Thomas during the discussion.

Tate and Lyle said yesterday: "Our concern with the programme Working for Britain, has nothing whatever to do with South Africa or apartheid. We are concerned with the simple question of documentary truth."

The planned showing of the documentary was delayed for a week when Tate and Lyle won a High Court injunction. The injunction was lifted on Monday.

The writ was lodged at the High Court in the names of Tate and Lyle, Mr John Oliver Lyle, its chairman, and Gary Treadwell, aged 21, an employed, of Ridge Close, Nutley, Sussex.

After an eight-day trial earlier this month the three were found guilty of damaging Tate and Lyle's reputation.

Christmas alert in Salisbury

Salisbury, Dec 22.—Police have been placed on full alert for a possible outbreak of guerrilla attacks in Salisbury during the Christmas season.

Mr Ian Hogg, the Assistant Commissioner, said today that the attacks could take the form of package or letter bombs or an assault by a group of black guerrillas.

He told reporters that police had received information which led them to believe such attacks were possible in preparation. He warned motorists leaving the capital for country resorts that it would be foolhardy to travel after dark.

Patrols and precautions already in operation would be maintained throughout the holiday period, he added.

Police teams of men and women now patrol the busy, brightly decorated Christmas shopping areas of Salisbury, checking bags and parcels.

The only major guerrilla attack so far made in Salisbury in five years of war between the white minority Government and nationalist guerrillas occurred last August. On August 6 a package bomb exploded in a city centre square, killing 11 people and wounding more than 70. A week later, an explosion damaged a shopping precinct near Mr Ian Smith's office.

The incidents jolted Salisbury out of the feeling of relative security that it had enjoyed while the guerrilla war was fought in remote bush areas.

In the middle of this year, a special operational area was created for the capital itself. Police reservists with shortguns appear almost every day on a street, sent off to check pedestrians and vehicles. — Reuters.

Dar Es Salaam: Mozambique said today that information obtained from captured spies showed that Rhodesia was preparing another major military offensive against targets inside Mozambique, using Mirage fighter-bombers, heavy artillery, motorized infantry and airborne troops. — UPI.

Hard going at talks, page 5

Jail for desecrators of John Peel's grave

Three men convicted of desecrating the grave of John Peel, the businessman, were each jailed at Carlisle Crown Court, Cumbria, yesterday for nine months.

They were David Hough, aged 49, a former company director, of Farriers Road, Middle Barton, Banbury, Oxfordshire; Michael Huskinson, aged 24, a student of Blacksmith Close, Abingdon, Hampshire; and Gary Treadwell, aged 21, an employed, of Ridge Close, Nutley, Sussex.

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Leading article, page 11

Letter: On the Moors murders, from Mr Michael Cates, and others; on the Lib-Lab pact, from Mr Stephen Ross, MP, and others.

Leading articles: The dollar: Whiskey and Europe: Clans in the television studio. Features, pages 6 and 10. Stanislaw Baranczak on Poland's unofficial crusade: Patricia Clough on a candle for Christmas.

Art: page 7. David Robinson on new films in London: Michael Church on Working for Britain (ATV) and Court Drama (BBC2). Ned Chittell on A Right Christmas Caper (Shaw Theatre). John Percival on Festival Ballet's choreographic workshop.

Obituary, page 12. Mr Raymond McGrath: Alma Sellder. Sport, pages 8 and 9. Football: Fulham under attack from their supporters; Crick: John Nemesany examines the authorities' options on Parker's Tennis: Richard Lewis defeats third seed in Australian Open. Business News, pages 13-17. Stock markets: In subdued trading the FT index closed 1.6 up at 481.5. Financial Editor's Christmas in the gilt market: Textiles: An historic turning point? Gold shares without the surrender. Business features: Patricia Tisdell on the Distillers Company's whiskey market strategy: The need to adjust to an "electronic" society is discussed by Kenneth Owen: Hugh Clayton argues that the strength of French farming are under-rated in Britain. Business Diary: Some prize savings of 1977.

Cabinet backs Begin plan for Palestinians

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Dec 22

The Israeli Government today confirmed the controversial plan by Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, to offer Palestinian Arabs "administrative authority" in the West Bank and the Gaza strip.

The plan is among proposals for a peace settlement which Mr Begin is to present to President Sadat on Christmas Day at their meeting in Ismailia. Emerging from a seven and a half hour meeting in Jerusalem this evening, the Prime Minister told reporters that the entire plan had been approved by the Cabinet unanimously.

The meeting, which had been scheduled to last three hours, turned out to be the longest since the Begin Government took office, causing speculation that some ministers had been hard to convince.

But Mr Begin told reporters there had been no opposition. "It was a long meeting because we were discussing matters that will determine the future of the nation."

He acknowledged that some minor amendments had been introduced, but said the proposals were no different from those he discussed in Washington with President Carter.

Mr Begin said he will be accompanied to Ismailia by Mr Itzhak Mordechai, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Weizman, the Defence Minister, and they will be joined there by the delegation to the Cairo conference. The party will fly to Egypt in a special El Al flight.

The proposal to grant Arabs self-rule has been criticized by some of Mr Begin's supporters, who feared it would evolve into an independent Palestinian Arab entity sandwiched between Israel and Jordan and that it would threaten security.

During the Cabinet meeting, Jewish settlers from villages in the occupied West Bank who fear they may find themselves under Arab rule demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's office, while inhabitants in Sinal today asked for a meeting with the Prime Minister for clarification.

The Prime Minister said he would bring a detailed peace plan including maps, to Ismailia.



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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

HOME NEWS

Public inquiry condemns harsh and insensitive treatment of children at assessment centre

From John Charters

Salford Social Service Committee yesterday accepted the report of a public inquiry, published earlier in the day, saying that "outmoded" institutional practices, and insensitive and harsh treatment of children at the assessment centre and assessment centre in the city should cease.

The inquiry was set up in May this year after allegations of harsh treatment of children "held" at the centre awaiting decisions on future accommodation or treatment.

One of the allegations was that a boy had been picked up by his head and ears by the warden, who, with the deputy warden (his wife), had been sent on leave since the inquiry began. The social service committee decided yesterday that the warden should return to his post.

The inquiry report says it was understood that instructions had already been given to end the outmoded practices and harsh treatment, including corporal punishment, compulsory cold baths and forcing of children to eat unwanted food.

It found proved allegations that a boy was picked up by his head and ears by the warden "in totally unacceptable circumstances". On a few occasions boys were punched or kicked ("this was not a regular feature of the regime but is totally unacceptable"), and that sleeping and snoring of boys was regarded as a frequent feature of the regime.

It rejected an allegation that children were knowingly forced to eat food tainted with their own vomit, although it agreed that on a few occasions children were sick as a result of being forced to eat food to which they were unaccustomed, and that on at least two occasions, probably more, they were still made to finish off the food on their

plates. That was inexcusable, the report said.

It says of the warden, Mr John Rodley, aged 50, and his wife, Dorothy, that they did adopt a caring approach to the children. "We heard many tributes to Mrs Rodley's successful attempts to be a mother figure and to her husband's similar attempts, not always quite so successful, to be a father figure, if perhaps a strict one," the report adds.

Of the "swiftness" incident, it says that Mr Rodley thought he could discipline a boy aged 13 out of supposed homosexual tendencies. The boy was something of a show-off and did passably good imitations of Frank Spencer, the television character.

Mr Rodley heard of his dancing in front of children and houseparents. When the boy hesitated Mr Rodley thought he could discipline him by his ears (for by his head and ears) in such a way as to make him cry out in pain and later lie on his bed crying hysterically.

At its meeting yesterday the social services committee agreed that Mr Rodley should return to the centre as warden under supervision in January, with a rider that the committee should be kept informed about his further training. Mrs Rodley is to take up a lower-paid post as matron of another assessment centre. She will be in charge of domestic staff and not directly responsible for child-care.

The committee also decided that punishment books must be regularly kept and open to inspection, and that moved discipline should be applied jointly to the senior posts in residential homes.

It was confirmed yesterday that a further incident had occurred at the centre in October, in which a boy was hurt. Two members of the staff were disciplined, one has since re-

signed and another is appealing against disciplinary action.

The inquiry committee also suggested that Salford should set up a working party to consider the city's press and public relations arrangements. The original allegations became public after information had been supplied to *The Guardian* by a former employee of Salford City Council, and the newspaper published an article after unsuccessfully trying to obtain balancing information about any action being taken. (In fact an internal inquiry had been held after complaints by members of the staff.)

The report says the newspaper was totally justified in publishing the article and the fact that it was incomplete and demanding law with "defective" procedures for dealing with lewdness press inquiries.

The public inquiry was arranged within a few hours of the appearance of the newspaper article, although the sitting had to be delayed until the police and the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided that no criminal proceedings were likely.

If full information had been given, as it should have been, it would have revealed that the social service department had done nothing of which it had cause to be ashamed, and much of which it had cause to be proud, in investigating the complaints; and not revealing publicity would have been coming to the reputation of the city of Salford, and the public inquiry would have been necessary, the report says.

The social service committee was also advised to clarify and define what it meant by its own formal reports, corporate review, and to seek clarification from the Department of Health and Social Security of some of its regulations, which members of the inquiry committee, headed by Mr B. A. Hyman, O.C., admitted they could not understand.

Christmas without breath tests in Ireland

From Christopher Walker

The Irish Republic, a country internationally renowned for its erratic driving and for its enthusiastic drinking habits, faces the worrying prospect of its first Christmas without a breath test law since 1968.

After years of sustained legal assault against the provisions of the Irish Road Traffic Act, the Director of Public Prosecutions ruled last month that all proceedings in drink-driving cases where the only evidence is blood alcohol level were to be dropped indefinitely.

The law had frequently been suspended for short periods, and a complex constitutional argument over the validity of blood tests led to a Supreme Court case which the state lost.

Even when the breath test law was in operation it permitted Irish drivers much more alcohol than their British counterparts. The limit was drawn at 125 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood (compared with 80 mg in Britain), officially described as the equivalent for an 11st man of drinking four pints of Guinness or six small whiskies in two hours.

But it is generally accepted that the judiciary's dislike for the mandatory 12 months' suspension from driving contained in the law led to its final scrapping.

Initially the Government had hoped to introduce new legislation, based more closely on the British model, by Christmas. But the revised law has still not been drafted, and instead Mr Barrett, Minister for the Environment, is making a series of peak-hour television appeals on the dangers of drinking and driving.

A recent survey indicated that almost half the Irish drivers killed in road accidents after dark had drunk more than the "legal" limit.

Minister Barrett, Chief Constable of Grampian Region, yesterday accused Mr Rodgers Secretary of State for Transport, of ignoring the dangers of drinking and driving.

Mr Morrison was commenting on the way the minister launched a film campaign on Tuesday, dissuading people from drinking and driving. Mr Rodgers drank a whisky and took a breath test which showed his blood-alcohol level to be 37mg.

It was concerned to emphasize that even with such a small amount of drink his driving would be impaired. But the chief constable said: "It introduced an atmosphere of permissiveness into drinking and driving, and I think that is basically wrong."

Court ruling on knife man upsets MPs

A court decision to acquit a man of having an offensive weapon when he carried a knife was "full recognition of the breakdown of law and order", Mr Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP for Brent, North, said yesterday.

It was also a further threat to breakdown if everybody was expected from now on to carry a weapon for his self-protection if he moved into certain areas in London, he added.

The case concerned a factory worker who was charged with possession of a knife for protection in an area plagued by muggers.

Mr Boyson said "some of us have been warning for years that law and order was rapidly breaking down in Britain". He urged Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, to increase police pay and recruitment immediately. He also demanded heavier sentences for muggers.

If such action was not taken, the man and woman in the street would consider the court decision to be a licence to carry weapons for protection in Britain's cities, he said.

Mr Edward Garrett, Labour MP for Wallasey, said he was appalled at the magistrates' decision and suggested that the Home Secretary might intervene.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Tory MP for Hastings, said: "We are frightened about the development of disorder in the streets but to encourage people to take up arms will make life even more dangerous."

The Police Federation said: "The police may appeal if they feel the decision is perverse."

The Law Society said the magistrates had apparently decided that the knife was not an offensive weapon because the man used it in his work. "It is still an offence to carry an offensive weapon, even if you live in a dangerous area."



Schoolchildren at grace before a seventeenth-century meal of broth and oatcakes in Clarke Hall, a farmhouse at Stanley, West Yorkshire, built in 1677 and now used by the local authority as a museum. While the children are there they play Stuart-period games.

Organizers of permanent opera company for the North take a musical gamble

By Our Music Reporter

As work begins on the creation of a new opera company for the North of England, the English National Opera North, at Leeds, it has become clear that it may be one of the biggest gambles in recent musical history.

For the first time since the Covent Garden company was set up after the last war a permanent opera company is being established in one swoop: orchestra, chorus, singers and staff are all being engaged ready for the first performances next November.

The finances for the first season have been underwritten by the Arts Council, but in the second year the onus will be on local authorities in Yorkshire to find the necessary money for the company to survive.

While the Arts Council will provide a proportion of the cost for the second and later years, the local councils will have to find perhaps £250,000 or £300,000 a year to keep the company in operation.

On the basis that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, Yorkshire will be able to sample the wares before deciding whether to foot the bill.

As Mr David Lloyd-Jones, the company's artistic director put it: "The Yorkshire and northern organizations are going to see the performances presented by the company for at least a year; then they are going to be asked to put their hands in their pockets and support it to the hilt."

English National Opera North will cost about £450,000 in its first short season, and thereafter at least £1m a year. Box office takings should meet a third of the cost and the Arts Council will provide four-ninths of the remainder.

Mr Jack Phipps, the Arts Council's director of touring, said most of the rest would have to be found by the local authorities, particularly West Yorkshire County Council and Leeds City Council, although South and North Yorkshire and Humberside county councils will be pressed to contribute. Business and private donations will be sought.

Mr Lloyd-Jones is nevertheless confident that the new venture will be an artistic success and will attract support, and he is swiftly building up the team to run the new company.

Applications for the post of

administrator are already being considered, and he is seeking an orchestral manager, an orchestra leader and a chorus manager; "the three posts that will make or break the whole thing".

Auditions for the orchestra of more than 50 and the chorus of 38 should start in the spring.

The speed with which the new company must be set up was necessary partly because the Arts Council could not announce its grant very far in advance.

Mr Lloyd-Jones pointed out that the birth of the company next November would coincide with the centenary of the Grand Theatre in Leeds, which will be its new home.

Initially the company will draw on the English National Opera, the parent opera company in London, for the bulk of its productions and singers, but he said they would have their own core of perhaps nine principal singers. Some smaller roles should be taken by members of the new chorus.

There may be some singers from abroad, but Mr Lloyd-Jones hoped that the company would create its own stars in Leeds.

MP's call on police chief discipline

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, was urged yesterday to establish new machinery to supervise the discipline of chief constables and other senior police officers.

The demand comes in a letter from Mr John Ryman, Labour MP for Ely, after the dismissal of Mr Stanley Parr as Chief Constable of Lancashire, found by the Lancashire Police Committee to have misused his position.

Mr Ryman said: "The events leading to his dismissal on the grounds of showing favouritism, abuse of office, and improper use of police transport disclosed a most disturbing state of affairs. In recent years the public have seen too many scandals involving very senior police officers."

Public confidence in the police was being progressively undermined, he said. "Junior police officers walk on a disciplinary tightrope every day of their working lives."

"In the public interest it is absolutely essential for the Home Secretary to establish new machinery to deal with chief constables who fail to conform to the high standard of behaviour the public expects of them."

New council for national parks formed

By a Correspondent

A new organization has been formed to protect national parks in England and Wales. The Council for National Parks, its prime purpose is to make sure that the twin aims of national parks, the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the enjoyment of the parks by the public, are successfully pursued.

Membership in the council comes from more than 20 amenity and outdoor recreation organizations throughout England and Wales, including the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the National Trust, the Ramblers' Association, the Youth Hostels Association and the British Mountaineering Council.

One of the main issues with which the council will be concerned is collecting evidence for the Advisory Council for Agriculture and Horticulture, which has been asked by the Minister of Agriculture to advise on ways to reconcile the conflict between the national interest and countryside, recreation and conservation and the need for economic agricultural production. The council will be urging the ministry to "give priority to conservation goals when making grants in particularly sensitive areas of national parks."

The council will also collect evidence for the Commons Commission, a subcommittee of the National Land Fund for the purchase of land within national parks by the national park authorities as a way of ensuring the fund's use for conservation or recreation purposes.

One of the council's main concerns will be the review of administrative arrangements for the national parks, which has been promised by the Government for 1981. The council believes that the national park committees and boards have less independence than is required for them to carry out their duties successfully, and there are recent indications that county councils want to curb even more the actions of the park committees.

Miss Linda Herbert, the council's secretary, said yesterday: "With national parks supported 75 per cent by national funds, they must not be allowed to be run by county councils."

Murder attempt charge against matron

Helen Messer, aged 38, the matron of a nursing home, who has been accused of killing a woman patient of 81, was also charged yesterday with her attempted murder. The new charge was made after Mrs Messer had appeared before magistrates at Bolton, Greater Manchester, on a coroner's warrant accused of the manslaughter of Mrs Mary Newton at the Ladymead Private Home, in July last.

Mrs Messer, of Westwood Road, Bolton, was further charged with the attempted murder of Mrs Newton and with three other offences. She will face the four new charges when she appears before the court again on January 19. She was allowed bail in £200.

Sharp rise in home deaths from electrical accidents

By Our Consumer Affairs

Correspondent

Last year 59 people died by electric shock in home accidents, a sharp increase on the 46 who died in 1975 and 43 in 1974.

Mr Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, commenting on the figures in a report published yesterday, said: "These are disturbing statistics which clearly illustrate the dangers involved in tampering with electrical equipment without sufficient knowledge."

The report says no particular factor can be blamed for the increase in the number of deaths, but says only a very small proportion of electrical accidents result in death.

Also last year, 45 people died in fires involving electrical equipment. The 17 caused by

electric blanket fires and five by television-set fires, the report notes, "have a background of thousands of non-fatal fires".

Results of a survey suggest that shocks from plugs are more prevalent than has been believed or than the number of deaths indicate.

The report says that, in Britain, unlike most other countries, there is no requirement that electrical appliances should be sold with plugs already fitted. Fitting a plug "is fraught with danger" for the unskilled.

The report advocates that the use and manufacture of bayonet-cap adaptors (plugs that fit into lampholders) should be stopped.

A Committee on Electrical Safety, set up by the Home Office, Consumer Safety Unit, Room 211, Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6DT, is studying the problem.

Mr B, who was suspected of starting a fire in Broadmoor, was, it is alleged, put in isolation for five weeks, with no cheer on which to sit, little room to walk and little natural light.

Broadmoor patients 'have no remedy under UK law'

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

The European Commission on Human Rights has decided that two patients detained in Broadmoor, who were taken up by the Mind campaign of the National Association for Mental Health, have no effective remedy under United Kingdom law.

Substantial questions about treatment on punishment arose, which might be a violation of article three of the convention that prohibits "inhuman or degrading treatment". The Mind campaign will continue to press for a domestic inquiry and for a change in legislation to prevent similar cases in future.

When a rest is not as good as a cure for some

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Sick people spend too long in bed, according to the Consumers Association's *Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin* published for doctors. An article in the bulletin says that many patients are put to bed unnecessarily and that bed rest is recommended for ailments which though it helps few of them.

"The sensible course," the article suggests, "seems to be to let the degree of rest be determined by the patient's feelings. Heart patients, for example, should be allowed up when free of severe pain. 'In uncomplicated cases this could be two to three days.'"

The bulletin also challenges the evidence for advising bed

rest as treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis, peptic ulcer, subarachnoid haemorrhage, rheumatoid arthritis, feverish illness except the meningitic phase of poliomyelitis, and acute hepatitis.

"The dangers of going to bed," the article concludes, "should be well known. Among them are spathy, depression, thrombosis, hypostatic pneumonia, bed sores, retention of urine and constipation. It also causes weakness, wasting of the muscles, and decalcification of the bones, with a tendency to form kidney stones."

As if that were not bad enough, the article adds a cur reminder that rest, if enjoyed in a hospital bed, is "very expensive."

Complaint against supplement rejected

A complainant who has not been personally attacked or otherwise criticized has no claim to a right of reply, the Press Council says today in an adjudication rejecting a complaint against *The Times Educational Supplement*.

Mr J. W. O. Jeffery, of Manor Road, Taunton, alleged that statistical tables published in an article and conclusions drawn from them were meaningless, incorrect and misleading because the author was comparing the wrong figures.

The Times Educational Supplement published an article by Dorothy Davis, which said she found that in one authority

comprehensives could hold their own with selective schools on performance in examinations. She found a strong connexion between the social class of the catchment area and examination performance. Included in the report were seven statistical tables, which were explained in the narrative.

Mr Jeffery initially sent a highly technical article to the newspaper analysing and discussing Mrs Davis's article. He later sent a letter for publication, which criticized Mrs Davis's article. The letter was not published.

Mr Jeffery told the Press Council that instead of comparing like with like Mrs Davis

had made diagonal comparisons in her table.

The editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, Mr Stuart Macleure, told Mr Jeffery that he had decided not to print the letter as he did not think it would be generally intelligible to readers.

The Press Council's adjudication was: "As the complainant had not been personally attacked or otherwise criticized he had no claim to a right of reply. The editor exercised his discretion in deciding not to publish the complainant's article or letter because he considered that it would not be generally intelligible to readers. The complaint against *The Times Educational Supplement* is rejected."

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HOME NEWS

Gould report accused of academic 'witch-hunt'

By Maggie Richards of The Times Higher Education Supplement

An attack on Professor Julius Gould and his allegations of Marxist and radical involvement in higher education has been launched by the Council for Academic Freedom and Democracy.

A pamphlet from the group questions the basis on which Professor Gould, of Nottingham University, "set himself up as the defender of scholarship against the radicals".

It argues that his report, *The attack on higher education—Marxist and radical penetration*, which was published in September, attempted to "create an atmosphere of McCarthyist intolerance and witch-hunting within the education system".

The pamphlet condemns the Gould report for propounding a "grand conspiracy theory, invulnerable to evidence and poorly argued for. Theories and ideas are alluded to, but not discussed at a serious intellectual level", it says.

The group was one of those referred to in the Gould report as a "front organization". But that has been denounced by Mr Anthony Arblaster, lecturer in politics at Sheffield University and chairman of the council.

"There is only one organization behind the CAFD 'front', and that is the National Council for Civil Liberties, under whose auspices the council was set up, and to which it remains largely affiliated," he said.

Contributions to the pamphlet include an article by Mr Arblaster and a piece on Professor Gould and the Open University by three members of its staff.

Mr Arblaster questions the claim of the Gould report that it upholds the values of intellectual diversity and pluralism. He also criticizes the report as blacklisting of academics who participated in conferences organized by left-wing groups.

Another article written by Mr Steven Lukes, of Kent University, accuses the Gould report of being "a piece of academic scholarship, but in the rhetorical mode, using the language and paraphernalia of scholarship for political purposes".

Mr Lukes expresses the view that the Gould report has been aimed at "directors of educational institutions, heads of departments and university moderators, and is concerned that the report is encouraging them to 'lean on anyone who could be described as a radical'".

Man died after transfusion of wrong blood

From Our Correspondent, Leamington Spa

A verdict of death by misadventure was returned yesterday on a patient who died in Stratford-on-Avon Hospital because he was given the wrong blood.

Frederick Share, aged 60, of Extington, Warwickshire, had been admitted for an operation to remove part of his stomach because of a duodenal ulcer.

After the operation, on November 23, he was found to be bleeding from the wound and a nurse was instructed to get blood for a transfusion.

Staff Nurse Wendy Moore said she put Mr Share's file in a folder. The blood given to him was from a patient who had died.

Mr Share's blood was taken from where she had left the file. "I believed the pink form was Mr Share's, and when the blood had been collected from the laboratory it was given to me," she said.

Dr David Chinn, a surgeon, said he was called to Mr Share and instructed that the transfusion rate should be increased. "Then I noticed that on the bed was a transfusion form for a Mr Jones. I asked if Mr Share had the right blood, and when it was checked it was found to be wrong. The blood given to Mr Share was for Mr Jones."

Pupil Nurse Janice Arnold, who helped to check the blood against the pink form, told the inquest that it did not strike her that the patient for whom the blood was intended was not Mr Jones.

Dr Derek Barrowcliff, a consultant pathologist, said: "In my view Mr Share's death was the result of the transfusion of about a pint of incompatible blood."

Colonel 'proud of part in getting Iranian contract' but denies bribery

Lieutenant-Colonel David Randal told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he had been proud of the part he played in securing an important contract for the Iranian Armed Forces.

Repeating earlier denials that he had ever received money from the Raca British Communications Corporation by way of commission or expenses, he said: "I did my duty over 15 months with vigour and effectiveness and I was very proud that my efforts helped to make an efficient and very large contract."

Colonel Randal, aged 40, of The Royal Signals, Aldershot, is one of three men who deny corruption charges in the Raca case. The other two defendants are Geoffrey Wellburn, aged 41, former managing director of Raca BBC, of Woodside Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Frank Nurdin, aged 61, the

Man in the news: Mr Jack Ashley, MP

Fighter for cause of the disabled

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, former labourer and crane driver, now champion of the disabled and underprivileged, is to receive an honorary degree from the Open University.

Mr Ashley, who is 55, left school at the age of 14 and 10 years later won a scholarship to Ruskin College, Oxford. Two years later he won another scholarship to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and became president of the Cambridge Union.

His record of success is remarkable. His secret is what his wife, Pauline, calls his "bloody-mindedness": once he has set his mind on a cause, he will never give it up. As a former media man and now an MP he knows how to use both the press and Parliament to his advantage.

"I won't take no for an answer," he explained recently. "The thing is never to accept the brush-off from any minister, Tory or Labour, if you are convinced you are right. You've got all these weapons—questions, early day motions, deputations to the minister, letters, adjournment debates, full debates: and if the issue is very important you give them a cannoneer."

Jack Ashley stands on the centre-right of the Labour Party and is a member of the Manifesto Group. Last year he called for a national campaign to combat vandalism. Last summer he tried unsuccessfully to tighten the law on sexual offences and to give the prosecution in rape cases a right of appeal.

Mr Ashley's concern to maintain high standards in public life led him recently to call for a royal commission on the functioning of Parliament and the role of MPs. Parliament is rightly regarded as the watchdog of our national institutions, he said, but it was time for an independent and searching scrutiny of the watchdog itself.

During the 1950s and early 1960s he worked for the BBC, first as a radio producer and then as a television producer on such programmes as *Panorama* and *Gallery*. In 1966 he won his seat in Stoke-on-Trent with a majority of 12,611, but two years later resigned after totally losing his hearing be-



Mr Ashley: Overcame his own deafness.

cause of a post-operation virus infection. He was plunged into the depths of despair. "One lives in a glass cage," he said at the time. "You see lips move, but there is no sound; you see babies cry, but hear no crying. My life is in pieces. I was an MP with a safe seat and fair prospects. Now I have no future."

A couple of weeks later he was back in the House, persuaded by friends and political colleagues that as a disabled person in Parliament he was in a special position to advance the cause of the disabled.

He took a crash-course in lip reading. Eighteen months and many setbacks later he had become skilled enough to be able to follow parliamentary debates and to chair a parliamentary group on disablement.

From there he has never looked back, leading indefatigable campaigns on behalf of battered babies, rape victims, battered wives, brain-damaged children, victims of whooping cough vaccine, the physically disabled, impecunious litigants, and his longest and most successful campaign of all, that for compensation for the thousands of children.

Mr Ashley is one of 11 people who will receive honorary MA degrees from the Open University in the summer. Honorary doctorates will be awarded to Professor R. V. Jones, Sir Charles Curran, recently retired Director-General of the BBC, Sir Charles Groves, the conductor, Dr Otto Peters, Dr Kenneth Robinson, Dr Cicely Sanders, Professor Harold Wilfith, Professor Michael Wise, and the late Dr Ernst Schumacher.

Decision on Tyndale is delayed

By Mark Jackson

Staff of the former William Tyndale Junior School in Islington, near London, must wait until after Christmas for the result of their latest appeal against dismissal. After an eight-day hearing an industrial tribunal has reserved its judgment.

Sir Ashley Bramall, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, and Dr Eric Briault, its retired chief education officer, are among those who gave evidence for the authority.

But Mr H. Hinds, the former chairman of the schools subcommittee, who resigned after the report of a public inquiry into the school last year, refused to do so.

The *Times Educational Supplement* reports that Mr Hinds, who is Labour whip in the Greater London Council, intimated to the teachers his readiness to give evidence on their behalf, he did not in the end do so, he said, because it did not seem that his evidence would help them.

Tories demand that Front candidates get a hearing

By Craig Seton

The Conservative group in the south-east London borough of Lewisham has decided that during the local government election campaign next May it will refuse to address public meetings if National Front candidates are not also invited to speak.

The decision is a response to the attitude of the ruling Labour group, which so far has refused to appear on the same platform as the National Front, although the decision will be left to individual candidates during the campaign.

Liberal candidates also will make their own decisions. Mr Godfrey Agar, leader of the Conservative group, which holds only 11 of the 70 borough council seats, said yesterday:

"We do not agree with the National Front, but if they have candidates they have a right to be on the platform. Democracy should be seen to be operating and the Front should be fought on their own terms, by argument."

The Labour group believes that to appear on the same platform as Front candidates would lead respectability to a "racist party".

The National Front has said it will have 40 candidates at the elections in Lewisham and although it does not expect to win a seat, it believes it will erode the Labour vote in many wards, particularly in Deptford.

The party's Lewisham organizer said yesterday: "We accept any invitation to speak. The Labour group are afraid to debate with us in public."

£40 loans offered to strikers

About 4,700 strikers at Raleigh Industries, Nottingham, have been offered £40 company loans to tide them over Christmas after voting yesterday to return to work.

Raleigh lost £3m in production during the five-week strike. The loans will be repaid in the new year.

Company's former sales director, of Barnet Way, Arkley, Hertfordshire.

Colonel Randal said: "I have never paid any money to Iranian officials. Military or civilian, I have never been suggested by them or by anyone else that that should be done."

Earlier in his statement from the dock, he said: "If I had suggested to an Iranian official that he wanted or could have money in the form of a bribe, no whisper from him to his bosses would have been enough to get me not only sacked but ruined for life, and it applies the other way round."

Of an acquaintance of his in Iran, called Galleddar, who had been expected to attend court but failed to do so, Colonel Randal said: "Life in Iran is much more different from here. If an Iranian had approached me and I had mentioned that approach and it had been made known to his superiors he would have been immediately imprisoned, and I do mean immediately."

Teachers call for inquiry into tensions in schools

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

The Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest teachers' organization in Scotland, called yesterday for action by the authorities to discover how many resignations, breakdowns, transfers and early retirements among teachers were caused by the increasing stresses and strains of their job.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the institute, told a press conference in Edinburgh that positive action was needed to reduce stress and strain in the profession and to prevent disruption by pupils in Scottish schools. That had reached serious proportions, he said, but had been "hushed up".

In Strathclyde about 400 teachers had left their jobs in two months recently. Some departures were accounted for by retirement or pregnancy, but a proportion must have been because of stress, he said.

"Teachers who get involved tend to keep quiet about it in case their professional competence is questioned. Head teachers keep quiet about it because they do not want the school to set a bad name. Authorities do not want to know; they prefer the schools to cope with their own problems."

Mr Pollock admitted that only a small minority of pupils indulged in disruptive behaviour. A sensible policy by local authorities and government would transform the atmosphere in many "problem" schools.

Mr Pollock quoted from a letter received recently at the institute's headquarters from a teacher who had retired after eight years in the profession, complaining of understaffing, resulting in large classes and excessive quantities of correction, so that pressures became almost intolerable.

The crucial difficulty was how to make parents more accountable for the behaviour of their children, Mr Pollock said. The institute took the view that before suspended pupils were readmitted, school written undertakings should be given by parents or guardians about their future good behaviour.

Labourer took crane 'on night of madness'

Ronald Gardner, a labourer, told the police officer who confronted him: "If anyone steps forward I will get them." It was alleged at Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

The court was told that Mr Gardner was backed up not with a gun, a knife or a club; he was swinging the job of a giant crane he had stolen on "one night of madness".

The story of the threat and a £1,400 trade of damage left by the crane was told at the court when Mr Gardner, aged 19, was sent to Bristol and banned from driving for 18 months.

The court was told that, after driving straight through the gates of the yard where the crane was kept, at Baptist Mills, Bristol, he drove into a road and damaged houses.

Mr Gardner, who admitted taking the crane, and seven charges of causing damage, was told by Judge Dyer: "I have come to the conclusion that this was one night of madness."

Christmas truce declared for Tagg's islanders

The household people of Tagg's Island, whose road bridge to the Wickham shore of the Thames has been declared unsafe by the local council, will have to leave their cars on the mainland after today.

Richmond upon Thames Council is to put a temporary barrier across the vertebrae bridge, but the islanders will be able to walk across, and emergency service vehicles will be able to get through.

In the High Court yesterday, by consent, Mr Justice Fox, the vacation judge, made no order on the application by Mr John Tagg, a board owner, to continue a temporary injunction made on Tuesday to stop the council closing the bridge completely.

Both sides agreed to an early trial, probably in February.

Busmen's protest

Busmen at Riverside Garage, Hammersmith, are stopping work today in protest against the strabbing of two of their workmates last week. London Transport said yesterday.

University pay

The pay debate dominated the Association of University Teachers' full meeting in Edinburgh. Full details appear in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

WEST EUROPE

Short list of four for Europe's astronaut

From Ian Murray, Paris, Dec 22

The first West European to voyage in space will be an Italian, German, Dutchman or a Swiss. The European Space Agency here today announced its short list of four to train for the seven-day joint American-European Spacelab mission in 1980. They were chosen from the 55 hopefuls selected in September by 11 European countries. Only one of them will actually make the journey.

The Italian is a 31-year-old bachelor, Signor Franco Malerba, a physician and electronics engineer at the Italian National Research Council. A biophysics specialist, he has worked at the Nato centre in La Spezia and studied neurophysiology in the United States.

Herr Ulf Merbold, a 36-year-old research physicist, is the German candidate. An expert on molecular structure, which is a main task of the spacelab mission, he is married and has a son, aged three.

The Swiss candidate, Mr Claude Nicollier, is a former Swissair pilot and works in the space agency's laboratory in Holland, specializing in astronomy and supergravity. He is also married, with a three-year-old son.

Nuclear problems are the specialty of the Dutch candidate, Mr Wubbo Ockels, a 36-year-old research physicist, who is the breakdown of nuclear systems immediately after their formation. He is 31, married, with a four-year-old son.

These four have been chosen from a first round of 12, which included French, Irish, British, Belgian and Danish names.

The mission will attempt to carry out 70 experiments covering research into the atmosphere and upper atmosphere, biology, medicine, astronomy, solar physics, thermodynamics and observation of the earth.

Washington, Dec 22.—A 38-year-old mother was among six American finalists named today for the Marshall space flight centre in her home town.

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OVERSEAS

Frustration of job can cool elation of New York's mayor as he faces task of making city solvent

From Michael Legman
New York, Dec. 22

Winning elections is surely one of the most satisfactory experiences in public life, but there are some elections where the elation of victory must be tempered almost instantly by the knowledge that the job for which the victor has been elected is a daunting one.

Mr. Edward Koch was elected by a comfortable margin last month, and as the turn of the year he formally assumes his responsibilities. Yet already, in trying to find men to fill the key positions of his administration, he has been met with some of the frustrations inherent in the job.

The man who was expected to be deputy mayor withdrew when he discovered that there would be no deputy mayors with equal status. The man whom Mr. Koch wanted as over-seer of the city's finances rejected the job in favour of one with the State government, where his role would be to keep a watchful eye on how the city spends its money.

Still, with a doggedness which seems to be one of his chief qualities, Mr. Koch completed the blue-ribbon and last week achieved an encouraging success when he persuaded the city council to drop their plan to give themselves 50 per cent pay increases. He came out of that confrontation smiling sweetly and talking of the triumph of reason and statesmanship.

One lesson from that episode was of how little real power the Mayor of New York has. The retiring mayor, Mr. Abraham Beame, could have vetoed the pay increases, but then the council could, if so inclined, have overridden the veto, and Mr. Koch would have arrived in office with an extra \$500,000 (\$250,000) already on his annual wage bill.

Keeping costs down—and that means keeping wages down—is going to be one of his chief tasks as he juggles with the figures to try to make the city solvent.

For instance, he will soon have to negotiate new contracts with groups such as the transport workers. During the election campaign he spoke of the necessity of being tough with the unions, but the experience of a former mayor, Mr. John Lindsay, serves as a warning that a serious strike early in an administration can colour a mayor's entire four years of office.

Mr. Koch is a balding bachelor with a high-pitched voice and his manner would best be described as glib. He won his campaign with a promise of competence, and this is the image he has tried to foster during the pre-mayoralty period.

He boasts that he does not own a car and travels by underground train, and during the campaign he undertook to fight for badly needed improvements in underground equipment and stations. The appalling state of parts of the system, together

with the constantly worsening potholes in the roads, is demoralizing for New Yorkers. It all contributes to driving the middle classes—and some revenue-producing corporations—out of the city.

During his campaign, Mr. Koch was adamantly opposed to the Westway project, a big new road which Mr. Beame's administration wanted to build to replace the old West Side highway by the Hudson river. Mr. Koch said that the money for this—most of it derived from the Federal Government—ought to be devoted to the underground and buses.

There have been signs lately, however, that the mayor-elect is wavering on this issue under strong pressure from Westway's supporters, and many will view the outcome as a vital test of Mr. Koch's intentions. Big business wants Westway, but the people who use public transport want to see that improved.

For the most part, the new mayor's choices will not be between ways of spending money but of saving it. His priority will be to gain enough assistance from the state and federal governments to save off a budget crisis like that of 1975, and then gradually to restore the city's fiscal health to a level at which it can once again borrow money in the open market.

It is a modest and uninspiring goal but Mr. Koch, who is not particularly inspiring himself, could be the man to attain it.



A belly dancer wins applause from General Sillayno (centre), UN delegate in Cairo.

Cairo peace negotiators wait for outcome of Sadat-Begin summit

Cairo, Dec. 22.—Preparatory talks on a Middle East peace conference today with differences still unsettled, so that the meeting between President Sadat and Mr. Begin on Sunday, Dec. 23, after the last Arab-Israeli war.

Egyptian sources, asked whether Israel wanted to delete any reference to Geneva as the venue for reaching a comprehensive peace settlement, said there was nothing in the United Nations resolutions specifying the Swiss city by name.

The sources emphasized that this did not mean the Soviet Union, which opposes the Cairo talks, should not have a role to play. "Nobody can exclude the Soviet Union's important role, but Moscow itself," they said.

The only parties attending the Cairo talks are Egypt, Israel, the United States and the United Nations. The Soviet Union, Syria and the Palestinian Liberation Organization all rejected President Sadat's invitation, while Jordan and Lebanon found diplomatic reasons for being absent.

Analysis believes the Sadat-Begin meeting could produce a number of minor agreements such as the creation of a hotline to avoid any "war by accident" and a withdrawal of troops in the Sinai peninsula from front-line positions during the peace negotiations.

They said progress would be slower on such fundamental issues as complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, particularly from the West Bank.

drawal from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, particularly from the West Bank.

Some 150 Palestinians from the West Bank crossed into Egypt today to support President Sadat's peace move.

Their visit is a blow to the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has claimed to represent all Palestinians in opposing Mr. Sadat's policy.—Reuter and UPI

Beirut, Dec. 22.—A building housing three Egyptian companies was damaged by a bomb explosion here today. The attack came after three unsuccessful attempts on the Egyptian Embassy in the past four days.

Yesterday the Egyptian chargé d'affaires in Lebanon told President Sarkis that he feared for the security of Egyptian offices and personnel.

A radical Palestinian guerrilla organization said today that an Israeli force last night kidnapped 10 inhabitants of the south Lebanese village of Aytun, close to the border with Israel.

The newspaper *Al Thawra* (The Revolution), published by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, printed what it said were the names of seven kidnapped men, adding that the names of the others were not available. The villagers involved were peasants and fishermen, it said.—Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

Gandhi supporters try to split Congress

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Dec. 22

Mrs. Gandhi's supporters seem hell-bent on splitting the Congress Party, while India's former Prime Minister goes on maintaining—in public at least—that she is still for unity.

Her more headstrong supporters have now decided to summon what in effect would be a rival All-India Congress committee meeting for December 31 in spite of the poor attendance at a preliminary meeting here of pro-Gandhi party members.

The latest crisis was provoked by Mrs. Gandhi's decision, announced last weekend, to quit the party executive though continuing as an ordinary party member.

The disappointing attendance at her meeting and the number-

ous expressions of support which have since come to him from influential Congress members in various parts of India, have persuaded Mr. Brahamananda Reddy, this party president, to defuse the crisis by simply speaking to everyone yesterday.

Mr. Reddy even said he would do his best to keep Mrs. Gandhi on the party executive and not accept her resignation at all.

The main preoccupation of the Congress supporters of Mr. Reddy is the damage that any split must cause the party in the state legislative elections early next spring. Rank-and-file party workers in the south, where Congress remains a force, are said to be agitated at the unending infighting of the Delhi party bosses and their aides.

President of Bangladesh welcomed to Pakistan

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad, Dec. 22

Informed sources here scoffed at the idea of a confederation between Pakistan and Bangladesh, its former province which broke away to become an independent state.

Speculation about a confederation had been rife in a section of the press before the arrival of General Zia-ul-Rahman, the Bangladesh President, today on his first state visit to Islamabad.

All due honours were extended to General Rahman by Pakistan Government leaders, including President Chaudhri

and General Zia-ul-Rahman, the chief martial law administrator, who were present at the airport to receive him.

21-gun salutes were fired by artillery, Pakistan Air Force fighters provided an air escort, and a massed band played the national anthems of the two countries.

There has been an exchange of views at the highest level between Islamabad and Dacca once before. In 1974 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, founding President of Bangladesh visited Lahore as chief delegate to the Islamic summit. Earlier, Mr. Bhutto, former Pakistan Prime Minister, paid a visit to Dacca.

BBC sells Shakespeare plays to US for £2m

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Dec. 22

The BBC has completed a £2m deal with the Public Broadcasting System here to sell its forthcoming productions of all 36 plays by Shakespeare over the next six years.

The deal is being assailed, however, by unions in the television industry, who say it is an insult to American actors and technicians.

Mr. Sam Robert, executive co-ordinator for the Conference of Motion Picture and Television Industries, said it is an insult to American actors and technicians.

The Public Broadcasting System is sensitive to campaigns of this sort because it is partly financed by the Federal Government. It accepts no advertising, and the balance of its revenues derives from grants from corporations and donations from viewers. Its audience is only a small fraction of those who watch the three main commercial networks.

Mr. Robert said that although his organization admired the British theatre, its allegiance must be to its members, many of whom were, but of work. One of the proposed campaign slogans, he said, would be that the initials CPB, for Corporation of Public Broadcasting, should be redefined as Corporation for "passage to Britain".

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Five dead, 11 injured in silo explosion

New Orleans, Dec. 22.—An explosion in a grain silo of the Continental Grain Company, in a New Orleans suburb today left at least five people dead, 11 injured and about 20 missing, the authorities said.

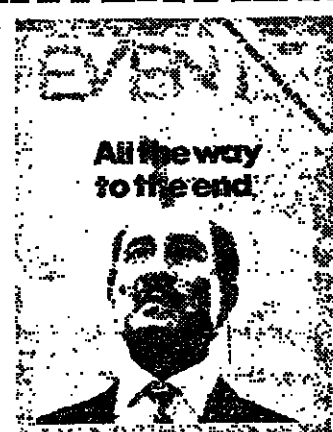
Five bodies were recovered from the 15-storey high silo and the adjacent three-storey office building, where government inspectors worked. The missing bodies were believed to be in the offices. The silo apparently

collapsed on to the office building.

A Coast Guard helicopter, manoeuvring through clouds of dense smoke, rescued one man from its roof.

The cause of the explosion was not known. The dust-filled air inside the cylindrical grain elevator is extremely volatile. The explosion rocked the small town of Westwego and struck a nearby highway, grain dust and debris. Across the Mississippi river at the New

SADAT'S MOST OUTSPOKEN INTERVIEW:



- "Geneva is not the objective. If we achieve peace without Geneva it is not a blasphemy."
- The Soviets are angry because they want to be our mentors.
- I intend to go all the way with my initiative, even without super power blessing."
- Carter's role in Sadat's Israel visit

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Hostages overpowered and shoot bank robber

Subic Bay, Philippines, Dec. 22.—A Filipino gunman today overpowered by enraged hostages he had held for two and a half days in a bank at the United States Subic Bay naval base.

Some of the hostages after he began abusing a woman hostage. He had been trying to force her to make sounds of distress during a telephone conversation with officials at the huge base, north-west of Manila.

One of the angry men hit the gunman over the head and another shot him. The hostages emerged in generally good condition from their ordeal.

The gunman was obviously tired and our patient approach was beginning to wear him down. We detected in his voice that he was beginning to lose control of himself, the hostages and the situation. Reuter.

Voice recorder of hijack plane found in Johore

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 22.—The cockpit voice recorder from a hijacked Malaysian Boeing 737 airliner which crashed two weeks ago, killing all 100 people on board, has been found and could throw light on the cause of the disaster, it was announced today.

Tan Sri Manickavasagam, the Communications Minister, told a press conference that the device, which records conversation in the vicinity of the cockpit, had been found in a ditch near ground stations, was dug out from 12ft of mud at the crash site in the state of Johore. He said it was being sent immediately to Britain for analysis.

Investigators last week recovered the flight data recorder, which shows speed, direction and altitude of the aircraft. The fuselage, wings and tail had been believed to be still buried.—Reuter.

Prisoners that Ethiopia wants to forget

By Roger Bechford

At least £200,000 worth of medical supplies are desperately needed by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front to cope with the problem of between 4,000 and 5,000 disease-stricken Ethiopian prisoners, according to Miss Mary Dines, general secretary of War on Want, who has just returned from a month in Eritrea.

At a press conference in London yesterday she launched a report of her findings which she hopes will persuade the aid organizations of the West to send the necessary help.

Miss Dines visited three camps where the prisoners, whose existence is denied by the Ethiopian Government, are held. She was struck by the good treatment they were receiving.

At a camp in Nacia she found 2,000 soldiers and 4,000 civilians. They included members of the Flame Brigade, troops trained by the Israeli anti-guerrilla tactics and considered the most effective soldiers in the Eritrean

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Settlement still eludes Rhodesia negotiators

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Dec. 22

Rhodesia's internal settlement talks appear to have slowed down again after a reported breakthrough yesterday.

It is believed there is still a gap between Mr. Ian Smith's Government and the African nationalists, particularly Bishop Muzorewa. It concerns the mechanics of a proposed system which would allow the minority whites in a black majority parliament to veto legislation they considered detrimental to whites.

The bishop is said to have made an important concession yesterday, but to have backed out at least to have raised another issue today. Questioned at the end of today's two-and-a-half-hour session, Mr. Smith said: "You cannot always make a lot of progress can you? There are times when you make more progress and there are times when you make less progress."

Asked what sort of day this was, Mr. Smith replied: "I think it is fair for me to say that we have made more progress yesterday than today. However we are still going."

In a separate statement today, Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) said that by the time the internal talks had reached a successful finality all opposition to them would slow down. The net loss of 9,295 whites for the first 11 months of this year compares with a loss of 5,914 for the same period in 1976.

A white civilian, Mr. Harry Whitehorn, aged 53, of Salisbury, was killed when his vehicle hit a landmine. A black bus driver was killed and three passengers injured in another incident.

Security forces have killed six more guerrillas. Two tribesmen have been killed and another brutally mutilated by guerrilla gangs.

Freilink (Mozambique) forces have fired on security forces in the eastern border area and fire was returned.

Churches pay full inquest costs of Biko family

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, Dec. 22

The full cost to the family of the inquest on the South African Black Consciousness leader, Steve Biko, is being paid by the South African Council of Churches through its Asingeni Relief Fund, it was announced today.

The council's acting general secretary, Mr. John Rees, said that the costs of the legal team headed by Mr. Sydney Kentridge which represented the Biko family were expected to be about £50,000. Earlier reports that the costs might run to as much as £165,000 were "the figment of some excited person's imagination".

The Asingeni fund was set up on June 16 last year, the day that the disturbances began in Soweto. Since then the fund has helped in more than 1,000 legal cases of various sizes, of which the biggest was the Biko inquest.

According to Mr. Rees, funds have been received only from Christian churches inside South Africa and overseas. Refusing accusations that overseas agencies had been interfering in South African affairs, Mr. Rees said that the funds were earmarked in any way and that only the South African Council of Churches decided how to spend the money.

A front-page report in the

countryside was increasingly unsafe to live in.

It added that the other principal argument against the present talks was that any internal settlement would not have the support of the guerrilla fighters. "While politicians speak from safe locations in Salisbury and Lusaka, the peasant who meets the fighters on a weekly and daily basis is constantly furnished with their current thinking. What these peasants report is different from the politicians' pronouncements."

The UANC statement said Mr. Smith was the right man to negotiate with, as most Rhodesian whites stood by him. Mr. Smith can never negotiate a communist takeover just as Bishop Muzorewa cannot negotiate for the perpetuation of white minority rule. Somewhere in between these viewpoints lies the solution which would be acceptable to the nation as a whole.

According to official figures released today, Rhodesia suffered a net loss of 576 whites in November, to bring the total outflow of whites in the first 11 months of this year to nearly 10,000. The largest loss in November was 390 whites arriving while 966 left. Altogether 1977 is the worst year for net emigration in Rhodesia's history exceeding the 8,710 net loss in 1963.

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OVERSEAS

International protests fail to halt imprisonment of Soviet dissidents in mental hospitals

By Peter Redaway

In spite of last August's condemnation by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), the KGB (security police) and some Soviet psychiatrists are continuing to intern dissidents in mental hospitals.

Observers believe that by continuing the internments the KGB may be testing the resolve of the WPA, which is setting up a committee to monitor such abuses and recommend measures for their correction. The Royal College of Psychiatrists has contributed to its budget.

Inside the Soviet Union the opposition is being led by the Working Commission to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes. This group was formed a year ago as an adjunct to Dr Yuri Orlov's group, monitoring Soviet adherence to the human rights provisions of the Helsinki accord. It welcomed the stand taken by the WPA in August and last month it appealed to the world organization to exert pressure on Moscow to bring the abuses to an end.

The commission listed five new cases. Further internments have been reported by other reliable sources.

In early November, Mr. Anatoly Ponomarev, aged 44, an engineer, was interned in a Leningrad mental hospital. He was first put in hospital in 1971, for circulating critical typewritten letters. After his release he could not get a job and when he applied to emigrate he was reinterned.

This time, he became the patient of Dr. Marina Volkovskaya, a psychiatrist now resident in London. She quickly saw that he was not mentally

ill and had him discharged. When she emigrated he was interned once more.

In September, Mr. Vladimir Rodostev, a 40-year-old civil engineer, was arrested and placed in the same mental hospital in Kaluga in which Dr. Zhores Medvedev, the biologist now living in London, was interned in 1970. One of his psychiatrists was Dr. Galina Bondareva, who also examined Dr. Medvedev.

At his trial last month he was charged with listening to foreign broadcasts, agitating about the low wages of workers, and "extolling the Western way of life". A Kaluga court sentenced him to compulsory treatment in a mental hospital for an indefinite period.

On October 6, Mr. Mikhail Kuibakha, aged 41, a longstanding dissident, was interned in a mental hospital in the Byelorussian town of Mogilev and given compulsory drug treatment. A few months earlier he had circulated an essay "Dissidents and the Defence of Human Rights are indivisible", a copy of which has reached the West.

The head of his ward, Dr. Nadezhda Drapkina, explained the internment by referring to "decorations in his room". To put up an icon and photographs of people like Academician Sakharov and General Gromyko goes against the general accepted norms of behaviour and therefore indicates mental deviance.

[Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the former nuclear scientist, is a leading dissident and a Nobel prize winner. General Pyotr Gromyko is one of the leaders of the Moscow monitoring group.]

Other new cases reported by the Working Commission include those of Mr. Yuri Vityash, belonging to the Dnepropetrovsk, and Miss Galina Kukereldi and Mr. Vladimir Veretennikov, both held in Leningrad.

The KGB is inhibited by the WPA's condemnation from breaking up its usual methods. In July it threatened to give Mr. Alexander Podrabinek, the commission's most active member and the author of the book *Punitive Medicine*, a sentence of 10 years. But to carry out this threat would no longer be expedient. So three weeks ago it ordered Mr. Podrabinek to emigrate. Since he does not wish to emigrate, he refused.

To persuade him to change his mind the KGB has begun to employ a tactic it has used against Dr. Sakharov—the persecution of his relatives. In October it claimed some of his children were at his place of work. But it could not then prove that they belonged to him.

So four days later KGB men came to search Kirill's flat. The officer in charge went straight to a cupboard, put his fist into the first jacket he found, and pulled it out again with two cartridges in it.

Moscow, Dec. 22.—The Soviet Union today rejected appeals by the United States and other Western governments on behalf of the jailed Jewish dissident, Mr. Anatoly Shcharansky, and alleged that foreign secret services were behind them.



Mr. Hayden: An electoral asset

Election of Mr Hayden blow to left

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Dec. 22

Mr. William Hayden was today elected to succeed Mr. Gough Whitlam as leader of the Australian Labour Party. Mr. Hayden, who is 44, defeated the only other contender, Mr. Lionel Bowen by 36 votes to 28.

Mr. Bowen was then elected deputy leader. Both Mr. Hayden and Mr. Bowen are seen as moderates within the Labour Party. Mr. Hayden was a member of the left wing and to the former deputy leader, Mr. Tom Wren.

Mr. Hayden emerged as a force in Australian politics during the Whitlam Government. He was the first appointed Minister for Social Security and won approval for his national health scheme, Medibank. He was later appointed Treasurer when the Whitlam administration was losing support.

Mr. Hayden comes from a humble Queensland background. He left school at 16 to join a public service clerk but soon became discontent and joined the Queensland Police force.

He became Labour candidate for the Liberal-held Queensland seat of Brisbane, which he won in the 1961 election. At 28 he was the youngest member of Parliament.

During the following year he took a degree in economics and has since become a leading economist in the parliamentary Labour Party.

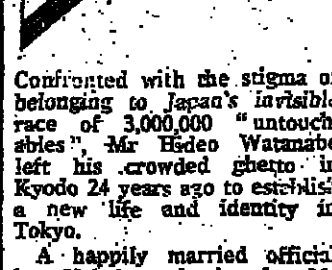
Chile to hold plebiscite over UN censure

From Florence Varas Santiago, Dec. 22

In his most important speech since the military junta took power, General Pinochet has asked all Chileans to participate in a plebiscite to decide whether they support him or whether they agree with the recent resolution of censure adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

In a speech broadcast last night on radio and television, President Pinochet accused the United Nations of involvement in an international plot to bring about the downfall of the Chilean Government.

The President said the recent General Assembly resolution which was approved by 96 votes to 14 with 25 abstentions and condemned the Chilean Government "for violating human rights" surpassed all tolerable limits due to its "falsity, unfairness and its blatant nature against our nation".



Mr. Watanabe: A happy married official

Why a million of Japan's 'untouchables' are living in fear

Confronted with the stigma of belonging to Japan's invisible race of 3,000,000 'untouchables', Mr. Hideo Watanabe left his crowded ghetto in Kyoto 24 years ago to establish a new life and identity in Tokyo.

A happily married official in a Yokohama bank today, Mr. Watanabe, 49, is secretly consumed by fear—a prey to black-magic, prejudice and ruin if his origins are discovered.

The slightly balding and round-faced official changed his address six times before his marriage—and has taken other elaborate steps to sever his connection with the ghetto in recent years.

Like another million or so of Japan's unknown minority community of outcasts, the "Burakumin", Mr. Watanabe has been passing himself off as an ordinary Japanese in the anonymity of urban life for more than two decades. He has successfully concealed his origins from his family, friends and employers since 1953—and he still lives with the cold threat of exposure to his heart.

The social stigma would ruin both his family and his career. "From outward appearances it would be impossible to draw differences between Mr. Watanabe and the average Japanese. They are of the same race, speak the same language and worship the same gods. As a result, Burakumin can only be identified if their antecedents are traced back to any one of the existing 6,000 Buraku ghettos."

Yet mindless prejudice, based on myths and deep-rooted superstitions, continues to

plague 3,000,000 Japanese outcasts today. Relegated to degrading jobs in the past, the Burakumin still come up against prejudice when they seek better jobs or attempt to marry outside their community. In many cases, private detectives are hired to carry out a dreaded *minato chosa* (background check) on prospective employees and marriage partners.

In the past the origins of Burakumin in big cities could only be traced back to the ghetto through the government's official family register. A curt message from a detective usually leads to rejections in employment and marriage, and in many cases to suicide.

Much to the relief of the minority community, the government has refused to issue both family registers and lists of recent years. But their relief was short-lived. Mr. Watanabe and 1,500,000 other Burakumin are now living with the constant fear that their future might be compromised in a new private book which has been snatched up by the personnel managers of large Japanese companies and private detectives at £100 a copy.

Compiled by a number of unscrupulous publishers, the book contains a list of the names and addresses of Burakumin. Distributed by mail order, the book also carries details of a confidential government survey which will help business firms identify Burakumin employees in the cities.

Japan's Buraku Liberation Movement, an organization associated with the Japanese Socialist Party, is furious. The movement's director, Professor Sano Tsunetsugu, one of the few Burakumin who proudly

announce their heritage, says the organization has compiled a dossier on 100 big Japanese firms who have purchased the lists.

"Since the government stopped publishing details of the Buraku ghettos, seven private lists have been distributed. This is equivalent to a person's revealing a secret to the public. It also looks as though all this material must have emanated from government offices. The Government has carried out several confidential surveys in recent years and it looks as though someone has leaked the material to these private publishers. It's going to ruin thousands of lives," Professor Murakoshi claims.

At the moment there is no law in Japan to penalize the publishers for acts of discrimination.

"We need a law to fight discrimination," Professor Murakoshi says. "Prejudice is so deep seated that people will go to any lengths to establish whether a person is a Burakumin or not. It mostly ends in tragedy when parents hire detectives to check on the background of prospective brides or grooms. I know one man who changed his address 20 times to direct detectives away from the fact that he was born in a ghetto. But they found out. His girlfriend's parents banned the marriage, and he committed suicide."

Admittedly Japan has reared a limited number of wealthy Burakumin, particularly in the meat trade, but in general the outcasts are found at the bottom of the economic scale. Like *Igida's* "untouchables", the Burakumin are predominantly employed in menial jobs, considered as degrading centuries

ago: street and sewer cleaners, workers in leather factories, butchers and scrap collectors. Today the Burakumin are also employed in the construction industry. Even the few Burakumin who fight their way up to university cannot hope to secure a level of employment commensurate with their standard of education if their background is exposed.

Significantly, a large proportion of Japanese emigrants who are settling in Brazil are Burakumin. Professor Murakoshi says.

The majority of Japan's outcasts from the main stream of society still live in 6,000 ghettos—both villages and enclaves in urban areas. An estimated 1,500,000 are attempting to conceal their identities after improving their positions in the anonymity of big urban areas. But, as Mr. Watanabe says, "We are consumed by fear every day. We are scared, terrified that someone will point a finger at us. My son is now 22 years old. He is at university and is not aware of my background. Next year he will look for a job. What happens if his employers check my background? It would destroy my family and my position in the bank."

The outsider finds it difficult to understand prejudice in an otherwise middle class society. "We are consumed by racial or religious discrimination," Professor Murakoshi suggests that Japan's prejudices against the Burakumin are founded on class differences which originate in the Nara era in the eighth century. At the time, workers were defined as *hinin*—non-humans—at the time, and the prejudices have been handed down from generation to generation.

"People who live in the same ghettos are identified by the force and fear, and they are ostracized. It is all a myth, but it is said," Professor Murakoshi says.

Peter Hazelhurst

Journalist's dilemma whether to report goings on at off-the-record Washington social event

Inside story of the 'pyramids party'

From William Safire Washington

Miss Barbara Walters, the television personality, gave a dinner party in Washington recently to bring together the ambassadors of Egypt and Israel, who had never officially acknowledged each other in the past. The evening turned out to be memorable.

Mr. Art Buchwald, the columnist, drawing on an old Jack Kennedy quip, praised his hostess for bringing together two men who have been ideologically miles apart, who fought each other over the years—Mr. Hamilton Jordan and myself. As it turned out, both Mr. Jordan, who is President Carter's White House aide, and I got in trouble that night.

My social scramble was in making notes of the speeches. Whenever present at a high occasion, I like to write down everything I hear. The editor of the *Washington Post*, who was under the impression that a private dinner was off the record, took umbrage at my note-taking, and later prevailed upon the hostess to point out to me that what I had written down was not for publication. Under his pressure, and blushing at my journalistic pushiness, I pocketed my notes.

Mr. Jordan did even worse. It seems he made a vulgar remark about someone at his table took to be insulting to the lady next to him, who happened to be

the wife of the Egyptian ambassador. [According to eyewitness accounts, the "pyramid incident" of Jordan pulled on the top of Mrs. Ghorbal's dress and, staring downwards, declared: "I have always wanted to see the pyramids."]

An account of this episode appeared in the gossip column of the *Washington Star*, which evidently moved the editor of the *Washington Post* to rethink his previous insistence that Miss Walters' dinner for 40 was all off the record.

Miss Sally Quinn of the *Washington Post*, in her vivid style and in italics, recorded Mr. Jordan's crude behaviour and early announcements. The *New York Times*, with decorum and reporting appropriate details, covered the story in full.

Since the entire press corps followed this up by serenading Mr. Joseph Powell, Press Secretary, with "See the pyramids along the Nile" (a heavy-handed reference to Mr. Jordan's crude behaviour), I feel somewhat lonely in my adherence to off-the-record strictures and will therefore print some notes.

Unfortunately, the Jordan incident took place at another level, and I have no lip-smacking details to add.

Mr. Simcha-Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador, with a sense of the occasion, paid tribute to his Egyptian colleague for his ability and professionalism—and sometimes I was not too happy about it—but I always hope the day will come when I could tell him that he praised President Sadat's bold act after which the Middle East cannot be the same any more. Then Mr. Ashraf Ghorbal, the Egyptian Ambassador, said the first time, he said quietly and with feeling, Mr. Dinitz has spoken for both Israel and Egypt.

To the hushed room, the Egyptian envoy pledged on behalf of his nation to strive for a full, comprehensive settlement, not leave it to the next generation. He reminded his audience of the aspirations of the Palestinians, and raised the issue of the proper peace, to the Israeli Ambassador and to President Carter.

There, in that room, at that moment, not even the most cynical media scribe present could help but be moved by the drama of the beginning of communication between two strong spokesmen of nations that have spent a generation at war.

The moment passed, the dinner ended, and we all fell to squabbling about ground rules for coverage and murmuring about the earlier behaviour of a White House aide. But long after the guests are forgotten, the warmth and graciousness of the first meeting of the two ambassadors at Miss Walters' dinner party will be remembered. —New York Times News Service.

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Chess chief tries to save match

Belgrade, Dec. 22.—Dr. Max Euwe, president of the International Chess Federation, arrived in Belgrade tonight to try to solve a dispute which threatens the match between the world title challenger, Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi.

The dispute, which has held up play for the past three days, is over whether a demonstration board for spectators should be within sight of the two players. It became an issue after the eleventh game—the first won by Spassky.

After Korchnoi had complained, the referee ordered that the demonstration board be moved out of sight of the players. Spassky has since refused to play.

Dr. Euwe will see both players. Korchnoi is leading 6-3 in the match to decide who challenges Anatoly Karpov for the world title.—Reuter.

In brief

Murderer admits 32 killings

Riverside, California, Dec. 22.—Patrick Kearney, aged 38, a self-confessed homosexual who wanted revenge for the ridicule heaped on him as a child, has confessed to murdering 32 victims, the highest number attributed to one man in recent times, the prosecutor's office said here today.

Mr. Kearney, who had pleaded guilty to three murders, was sentenced to life yesterday for what were known as "the trash bag murders". Many victims were hacked to pieces and their bodies stuffed into plastic rubbish bags.

19 die in mosque

Teheran, Dec. 22.—Nineteen women and children died and several people were injured in a stampede when the lights went out in a crowded mosque in a town on the Caspian coast.

US intelligence deputy

Plains, Georgia, Dec. 22.—President Carter has nominated Mr. Frank Carlucci, United States Ambassador to Portugal, as deputy director of Central Intelligence to serve under Admiral Stansfield Turner.

Kidnap victim killed

Bogota, Dec. 22.—Señor Alberto Pardo León, a wealthy Colombian businessman kidnapped in early December, has been found dead in the city outskirts. He had been stabbed seven times.

California storm deaths

Los Angeles, Dec. 22.—Nine people died in storms which ripped across California with hurricane force, tearing down power lines, uprooting trees and raising a blinding dust storm.

Rare falcon birth

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—A peregrine falcon has produced offspring in Alberta in what is believed to be the first successful mating of its kind in captivity.

Doubts cast on US list of missing Argentines

From Andrew Tarnowski Buenos Aires, Dec. 22

Evidence has emerged in Buenos Aires casting doubts on the credibility of a highly publicized list, prepared by human rights groups in the United States, of people who have allegedly suffered violations of human rights in Argentina.

The list was brought to the last month by Mr. Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State. The United States Embassy later delivered it to the Argentine Government.

Even before Mr. Vance left Washington, it was widely referred to in the international press as listing 7,500 people allegedly detained without trial or abducted since the military coup. Mr. Vance let it be known that he had raised the matter with the Argentine's military rulers.

After studying the list for nine hours over two days, I can reveal that it totals 5,591 names.

Many of the alleged cases occurred before last year's military takeover, some as far back as 1974. Many more are not dated. Some are names with no source of corroborating detail.

The list consists in fact of the following four lists: A 93-page computer print-out of 1,452 names collected by an "Argentine Information Service Centre" (AISC) in the United States; a typewritten list attached with 973 names; an Argentine list of 395 disappeared persons; a list of 67 disappearances in the Argentine city of Mendoza.

The largest, computerized section, is entitled "Partial list of victims of repression in Argentina" compiled by AISC as of November 4, 1977.

A study of 15 sample pages reveals that, despite the way it has been published and entitled, it is not restricted to the situation under the present Argentine Government, still

less to the situation here last month.

Of 687 names on the 15 pages, 138 (20 per cent) are cases from before the military takeover, 285 (41 per cent) occurred on unknown dates, and 264 (39 per cent) after the coup.

The second list of 573 names is so shaped as to indicate jobs, sex, age, date of birth, but details are only completed in one case, partially completed in 11, and name and date only are given for the rest. In all the sample pages, this is said to have been arrested.

Of the 395 disappeared people in the third list, some cases date from before the takeover. Of the 62 names on page 1 alone, 18 (29 per cent) are duplicated in the computerized list, and one is triplicated in the second list.

The Argentine "police" journalists, Señor Mariano Gryndowska was amused to hear that he was on the list, having been detained a few hours by the police last year.

The late Señor Roberto Santucho, the leader of the Trotskyist People's Revolutionary Army which killed hundreds of Argentines and kidnapped United States businessmen, is listed as a "victim of repression."

None of this means that the situation here is not bad. The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, recognized by the Government, calculates that 6,000 arrests have been made since the coup and report no less than 6,000 disappearances.

Luis Guzmán, aged 33, an Argentine journalist working as the London-based newsletter, *Latin America Political Report*, was arrested yesterday with his girlfriend, Señora Dora del Carmen Silva Romero. Relatives quoted police as saying they were held as "enemies of the Montoneros" (Peronist guerrillas).

Animal lovers, saboteurs and a vegetarian diet for dogs

First there was the mounting over Victor the giraffe. Then there was the lobbying of Parliament over the export of live animals. Now there is the campaign to save the other: a new magazine for rural rodents, the *Vole*, and there will be an exhibition on *The Animal in Art* at a branch of the World Wildlife Fund (Panda House, 29 Greville Street, London, EC1N 8AX (tel. 01-405 6658).

At the same time, the British Museum, which has just published *Animals in Art* by Jessica Rawson.

Animals continue to be a main preoccupation of the British, and this is reflected not only in the number of pressure groups concerned for their welfare, but also the passions involved. Two members of the Humane Society Association have recently been charged with the use of force to liberate a dog from a cage.

More dispassionately, those who disapprove of factory farming and call for a "charter of rights" for animals join the *Lynching House*, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, GU22 8JG, and the *Animal Rights* (tel. 0432 4208). This organization

produces T-shirts of another Victor, in this instance Victor the calf, for £2.45 plus 15p and p, and also runs the *Live-Stock Liberation Movement* (the same address).

Anyone who wishes to confide his support to one particular species, and dislikes "harmless" for hens, can show solidarity with *Chicken Lib* (Maple Hill Cottage, Litherland, Merseyside, L21 1JG, tel. 051 387 788).

This glorifies the movement to liberate the chicken, rather than to liberate the hen, as the *Free Range Egg Scheme* (39 Maresfield Gardens, London, NW2, tel. 01-435 6688), which opposes the battery system by granting its symbol to retailers whose eggs are guaranteed range-free.

Disrupting the activities of hunters of foxes, and others, and deer is the more militant aim of the *Hunt Saboteurs Association* (PO Box 45, Tomkies, Kent, TN11 8JG, tel. 0464 808).

This is "a group" of hunters, and the use of hunting horns, whistles, hallooing, spraying that obscures the fox's scent, and other tactics are organized resistance among local farmers.

The association's magazine is *Howl* (South of the Border, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 6

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SPORT

Football
Allen says
yes to
astonishing
offer

By Stuart Jones

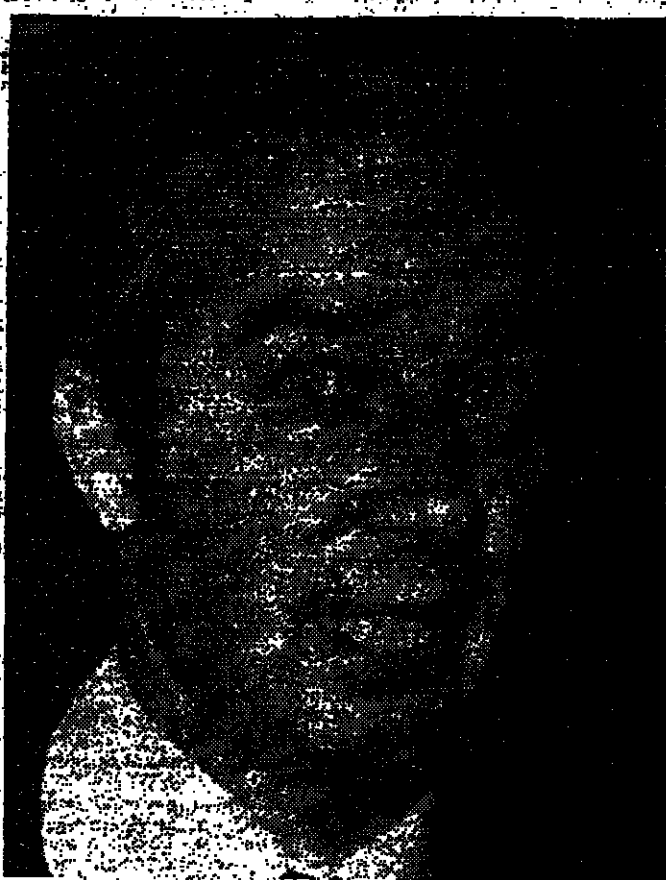
Ronnie Allen yesterday accepted what was described as an "astonishing offer" to leave the Saudi Arabian national manager's post for £200,000 a day, tax free from Arabs.

Allen, 38, who has been in Saudi Arabia for 18 months, was approached by the Saudi Football Federation, which has already rejected the offer of a company handling football operations there, then dealt with the arrangements which were concluded at the palace of Prince Fahd, the defence minister.

Mr Allen informed his chairman, West Bromwich Albion, of the offer yesterday. A meeting of the directors was held yesterday, after which a statement was issued. "Mr Allen has advised us that he has decided to accept the astonishing offer that he has received from the Saudi Arabian Football Association, and there is no way, under our present system, that any club in the league could compete financially."

"We are disappointed to lose him but we are left with no choice but to accept with regret. The club has to continue and make the best use of the money that is in the hands of the chairman, John Wile, and his staff, and to make immediate action to find a suitable replacement. Everyone in football now knows the situation. We need a manager and invite applications."

Mr Allen said: "It has been a difficult decision to make. I have made it with my head and not my heart. I have had talks with Prince Fahd, who is in charge of the soccer setup, and I was so impressed with their ambitious approach and terms that I decided to accept them and then, I appreciate the offer made."



Allen: £200 a day, tax free from Arabs.

by Albion but I had no hesitation in choosing to go to Saudi Arabia once I had the circumstances fully explained to me."

Mr Allen had been under the impression that a "contract" with West Bromwich Albion would have been signed in the new year but he was surprised that nothing was forthcoming from the board until they "knew of the approach. Now he has received a steady stream of managers, although it is not his first foreign posting."

Former player with West Bromwich Albion, he took over at Wolverhampton Wanderers before going abroad to join Athletic Bilbao and, later, Sporting Lisbon. He had been in Saudi Arabia for 18 months, when Johnnie Giles left the Hawthorns six months ago, West Bromwich

appointed him but without a contract. "I have had 12 months at Albion as a scout and then as a manager. I believe they have had full value for their money," he said. "Because of flight delays, I have had only eight hours sleep since Monday night and, at the moment, all I want to do is climb into bed." His rest will be brief. He starts his new job on January 1.

Lincoln City also signed a manager with experience yesterday. Willie Bell, formerly with Birmingham City, replaces George Kerr, who was dismissed last week. Mr Bell was selected on the recommendation of two colleagues, Sir Alf Ramsey, his successor, and Bobby Robson, of Ipswich Town.

Racing

Six characters in search of author

By Michael Seely

Those dashing into the shops for their last minute Christmas purchases could do their racing friends a worse turn than buy them a copy of *Six At The Top* (Hinemann, £5.95). It is written by two of our leading National Hunt trainers, Fred Winks, Bob Turford, Fred Rimell, Tony Dickinson, Gordon Richards and Jim Deane. The book is a collection of different characters and their personalities come to life with Herbert's vivid powers of description.

Three of them resided the front rank of their profession as jockeys: Winks, Turford and Rimell. Herbert, the champion trainer as being tough as a hammer, a great worker and totally dedicated to his career, with little time for the pleasures of social life. Despite his formidable exterior, I had Winks' approachable and helpful. His monogamous replies tell you all you need to know.

Turford is another of the same breed. As hard as tungsten and as close as an ox, he is a jockey's jockey. He considers as pampered. His type wears with that hard, unyielding skin, he has a week and the only time he had off was when he ran away, he left an indelible mark. Fred Rimell, Turford does not care, overmuch for his profession. He would be far happier earning a few hundred acres and indulging his passion for his main love, hunting, with the Beaufort.

Herbert considers Fred and Tony Rimell the complete professionals. There is a teamwork between Fred and Tony, the horses and jockeys doing the entries. They are masters of long-term planning and never hurry their horses. They are always produced cherry ripe on the big day. Of his triumphs, Rimell's four victories in the Grand National speak for themselves. Like the Kinnaird, the Dickinsons also work in harness. Today, the trainer, is one of the best judges of a young horse in the land. Both he and his wife Monica, who is an expert feeder, were leading point-to-point riders. Their son Michael, the stable jockey, is a gifted horseman and a superb judge of pace.

This is the skeleton of Herbert's story. His covering of the bare bones with the trainers' lives makes fascinating reading. His other two subjects, present and past, are the cocky Gordon Richards, whose time spent in far-ground houses is obvious from his rolling horse's walk. Supercharged with adrenalin, and a born gambler, Richards' abundant energy and enthusiasm has to be kept in check by his wife, Jean.

On the other hand, the 25-year-old Jim Deane is a quietly spoken and a fastidious dresser. Although he has not yet had time to show that he has inherited the training skills of his father, the legendary Tony Deane, he certainly possesses the same dry turn of phrase.

My own jockey-memories of Jim is after Brown Lad had ploughed his way through the bottomless going to win the Lloyd's Bank Hurdle, with incredible ease in 1975. Those of the press who had obtained 8 to 1 against Brown Lad, until his heart was broken by Ardie. Then from 1964 to 1966 his mighty conqueror bestrode the steeplechasing world like a colossus, reducing not only the Chesham Gold Cup but also the big handicaps to mockeries, so few being prepared to take him on. Until his tragic accident at Kempton Park, Ardie only tasted defeat twice, first by Flying Wild and Bruno Norte in the Massey-Ferguson Gold Cup and then when he narrowly failed to give St. Bridgete Colonnist two and a half stones in the 1966 Hennessy Gold Cup.

Since then what have we seen to equal him? His stable companion, Flyingbolt, eventually broke down. Captain Christy is unquestionably the only horse of great class to have taken the Blue Riband of steeplechasing in the past 11 years. Bala was a star over fences as well as over hurdles, but he did not stay the Gold Cup distance. Otherwise as Winks said after Midnight Court's victory at Ascot: "They are only a lot of top-class staying handicappers in the Gold Cup again this year."

STATE OF GOING (official): Monday, December 23, 1977. Good to go. Weather: Good to go. Wind: Light. Temperature: 50°F. Humidity: 60%. Visibility: 10 miles. Road conditions: Dry. Surface: Good. Track conditions: Good. Ground: Firm.

Keegan for Surtees

Rupert Keegan, a former British formula three motor racing champion, will drive a Surtees TS19 for the Dures Team Surtees in next year's formula one world championships.

Yachting

Protest is the only threat to N Zealand supremacy

Sydney, Dec 22.—The New Zealand team continued its domination of the Southern Cross Cup yachting series today with first, second and fourth places in the third race off Sydney. Overall, they are now well clear of Victoria but the position could change because of a protest lodged against the winner of the race, Smir-Naft-Agen, by Xaviera, a British yacht.

A decision is expected tomorrow on the protest which followed an incident at the start of today's 30-mile race. Several boats were forced away from the starting line and Smir-Naft-Agen, skippered by Don Liddard, a former world 18-footer champion, was among several yachts involved.

She recovered from a poor start to overtake her team colleague, Xaviera, sailed by Ray Hender, and win comfortably on corrected time. The smallest yacht in the New Zealand team, the Smir-Naft-Agen, finished second overall, beating Superstar, of Victoria, and Jenny-H, the winner of the first two races of the series.

RESULTS: 1. Smir-Naft-Agen. 2. Xaviera. 3. Superstar. 4. Jenny-H. 5. Smir-Naft-Agen. 6. Xaviera. 7. Superstar. 8. Jenny-H. 9. Smir-Naft-Agen. 10. Xaviera. 11. Superstar. 12. Jenny-H. 13. Smir-Naft-Agen. 14. Xaviera. 15. Superstar. 16. Jenny-H. 17. Smir-Naft-Agen. 18. Xaviera. 19. Superstar. 20. Jenny-H. 21. Smir-Naft-Agen. 22. Xaviera. 23. Superstar. 24. Jenny-H. 25. Smir-Naft-Agen. 26. Xaviera. 27. Superstar. 28. Jenny-H. 29. Smir-Naft-Agen. 30. Xaviera. 31. Superstar. 32. Jenny-H. 33. Smir-Naft-Agen. 34. Xaviera. 35. Superstar. 36. Jenny-H. 37. Smir-Naft-Agen. 38. Xaviera. 39. Superstar. 40. Jenny-H. 41. Smir-Naft-Agen. 42. Xaviera. 43. Superstar. 44. Jenny-H. 45. Smir-Naft-Agen. 46. Xaviera. 47. Superstar. 48. Jenny-H. 49. Smir-Naft-Agen. 50. Xaviera. 51. Superstar. 52. Jenny-H. 53. Smir-Naft-Agen. 54. Xaviera. 55. Superstar. 56. Jenny-H. 57. Smir-Naft-Agen. 58. Xaviera. 59. Superstar. 60. Jenny-H. 61. Smir-Naft-Agen. 62. Xaviera. 63. Superstar. 64. Jenny-H. 65. Smir-Naft-Agen. 66. Xaviera. 67. Superstar. 68. Jenny-H. 69. Smir-Naft-Agen. 70. Xaviera. 71. Superstar. 72. Jenny-H. 73. Smir-Naft-Agen. 74. Xaviera. 75. Superstar. 76. Jenny-H. 77. Smir-Naft-Agen. 78. Xaviera. 79. Superstar. 80. Jenny-H. 81. Smir-Naft-Agen. 82. Xaviera. 83. Superstar. 84. Jenny-H. 85. Smir-Naft-Agen. 86. Xaviera. 87. Superstar. 88. Jenny-H. 89. Smir-Naft-Agen. 90. Xaviera. 91. Superstar. 92. Jenny-H. 93. Smir-Naft-Agen. 94. Xaviera. 95. Superstar. 96. Jenny-H. 97. Smir-Naft-Agen. 98. Xaviera. 99. Superstar. 100. Jenny-H. 101. Smir-Naft-Agen. 102. Xaviera. 103. Superstar. 104. Jenny-H. 105. Smir-Naft-Agen. 106. Xaviera. 107. Superstar. 108. Jenny-H. 109. Smir-Naft-Agen. 110. Xaviera. 111. Superstar. 112. Jenny-H. 113. Smir-Naft-Agen. 114. Xaviera. 115. Superstar. 116. Jenny-H. 117. Smir-Naft-Agen. 118. Xaviera. 119. Superstar. 120. Jenny-H. 121. Smir-Naft-Agen. 122. Xaviera. 123. Superstar. 124. Jenny-H. 125. Smir-Naft-Agen. 126. Xaviera. 127. Superstar. 128. Jenny-H. 129. 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Getting behind the 'Potemkin' facade

Poland's unofficial crusade: publish and be free

In 1787 the Tsarina, Catherine II, took a journey through the southern territories of her domain. She wanted to see for herself how simple Russian people lived. Unfortunately they lived far worse than she imagined. Prince Potemkin, Catherine's favourite, had an ingenious solution. Mock-ups of villages were speedily built along the journey's route: fake facades of peasants' cottages which looked neat, new and pretty.

It is how the famous 'Potemkin villages' were born. In the countries of Eastern Europe the description is popular to this day. It denotes the peculiar contraption of illusion and mock-ups erected for the benefit of the outside observer. It is a key term to local satirists and is applied metaphorically to anything of which the essence is to present an impressive facade concealing a not very impressive rear view.

We, the inhabitants of Eastern Europe, encounter such phenomena every day. We work on state farms where handsome cattle, borrowed from independent local farmers, are brought in for the day for a state dignitary's visit. We live in towns and cities where hovels intended for demolition are newly rendered for the leader's motorcade. We see gigantic neon advertisements over empty shops. We read newspapers bringing daily reports of universal enthusiasm which we do not feel ourselves or which is everywhere around. Countless 'Potemkin villages' make up our daily experience.

However, we do not always realize that our culture, too, is one big 'Potemkin village'. Recently one of our writers, Andrzej Kijowski, pointed out that the essence of the system prevailing here has not so much in its cruelty as the liberal stereotypes would have it, nor in its exploitation as the leftist stereotype would wish it, nor in the extermination of national and religious values, as the rightist stereotype proclaims. Its essence is a style which permeates every sphere of our life.

Culture, by the very nature of things, forced to be the most often and in the most painful manner, the whole enormous chain of different authorities which stimulate, supervise, censor and propagate, operates here so as to cause the least possible quantity of authentic values to be brought forth. According to those who rule the country, an ideal culture should present itself as one huge, monolithic facade, adorned by a multitude of all kinds of embellishments, creating an overwhelming impression of wealth and strength—but containing nothing behind its front.

In countries such as Poland the metaphor of a 'Potemkin village' is not entirely apt because here the facade conceals neither emptiness nor crushing poverty but quite a sizable little building of unofficial culture, solidly constructed, though obviously in a style which is in glaring contrast to the facade and not as uniform. The greater part is made up of subterranean catacombs. The outside observer usually notices it only when the facade, shaken by its historic storm or another, suffers partial disintegration and has to be redecorated. Nevertheless, in recent years the rear building is beginning to outgrow the facade, and it looks more and more as though this modest little building constitutes the most important (or, at any rate, the most interesting) part of the eccentrically constructed edifice.

The two-facedness of culture, its profound inner rift, starts with the language we use every day. The average Pole gets up in the morning and hears the news broadcast, which tells him in the artificial language of the facade that, for instance, 'the crews manning urban bakeries have pledged themselves to fight and to make sacrifices in order to continue further the dynamic development of bringing supplies of provisions to the population'. Next, our citizen goes to the shop, where he becomes clear that there does

not happen to be enough bread. Our hero acknowledges the fact by a lively exchange of views with the sales assistant, in the course of which each tries to outdo the other in finding colourful and picturesque terms to describe the hopeless situation of market supplies.

If, however, our hero is a journalist by profession, he proceeds to his editorial office and writes an appropriate 'intervention note', this time using official and artificial language. 'Despite continued improvement in the supply of bread, there are still periodic shortages in certain sectors.' He then returns home, where at lunch he tells his family the latest Brezhnev joke. And so on.

It is simply that each one of us is equally fluent in two languages: one is the language of slogans, used with superiors or in other official circumstances; the other is current usage, mocking, lively and colourful, which often parodies the official 'straw-talk' and is full of popularly-coinced verbal shorthand and ironic allusion. But while a joke or a song loses nothing or may even gain by remaining on the unofficial or underground circuit, a collection of poems, a novel or a volume of essays needs to be published in countries such as Poland in an attempt to publish a book inevitably condemns the author to one or other form of dependence on the official representatives of cultural policy. In the same way a painter, a sculptor or a dramatist, if he wants to be seen, must submit his work to the official circuit, or 'conform' to the official taste.

Mr Gierke: presiding over a small eruption in art.

longer or shorter periods of cultural 'thaw', when authentic and independent works were able to appear on the official circuit. The violent eruption of spontaneous artistic tendencies suppressed during the Stalinist years made a mark after Gomułka came to power in 1956; a similar eruption, though on a smaller scale—occurred after Gierke replaced Gomułka in 1970.

Another 'third solution' is the group of Catholic periodicals and publications which exist in Poland, and which, though also under censorship, are nevertheless trying—and not without success—to preserve their independence. For a certain time, after the political crisis of 1970, and which, though also under censorship, are nevertheless trying—and not without success—to preserve their independence. For a certain time, after the political crisis of 1970, and which, though also under censorship, are nevertheless trying—and not without success—to preserve their independence.

Such 'third solutions' have played and continue to play a truly powerful role in weakening the centralistic tendencies of cultural policy. Their inevitable defect, however, is that, by their very nature, they are half-baked. One must humbly suffer the interference of censorship, negotiate with the publishers, avoid, of one's own accord, any words, sentences and ideas which 'won't be allowed through anyway'. One must also agree to appear in a not-always-pleasant context (I myself checked, and published some nonconformist—or so they seemed, to me—poems or essays in journals which printed on their front page anniversary articles on Dzierżyński or other revolutionary figures). Sooner or later the author who realizes this and who slowly gets fed up with his own conciliatory lack of authenticity begins to look for other ways out.

Obviously, one such way out is—and has always been—the opportunity to publish abroad, but apart from the reprisals which inevitably ensue, the author in his native country, this solution has one other fundamental shortcoming: despite everything, publishing abroad means moving into the margin of activities, far from the centre of the scene, as it were, brought out in Paris or in London can have considerably pub-

licity among us in our homeland but it will still be read by only a few: there are still too few citizens travelling to the West, and too many copies of the books they try to smuggle into the hands of customs officials at the frontier. That, and the intensification of censorship, made it necessary to turn to even more radical solutions and create a totally independent cultural goods circuit.

The period since 1975 differs from similar periods of intensified pressure in 1948-55 and the late sixties not so much in the greater strictness of the control on the extent of its reach (it makes itself felt not only in literature, film and theatre, but also in the plastic arts and even music), but in its total absurdity. Lack of space prevents me from citing numerous examples of the censor's decisions which prove total absence of criteria, combined with an obsessive fear of giving the broader public anything even slightly authentic. Vaclav Havel rightly wrote in his book 'The Art of the Impossible' as being the only ones which the authorities in Eastern Europe have not dared to accept: it is not only ideological but any kind of independence which arouses the anxiety of those who rule here. Anything even slightly different from the official mould is suspect.

However, in the Poland of recent years this negative element has unexpectedly collided with the violently increasing opposition activity of the artists and the artistic milieu. I will not enumerate all the causes which contributed to the fact that in the second half of the seventies there is an acute crisis of confidence on the part of the nation towards the authorities. What is important is that various forms of social action in the defiance of the rule of law and of truth, have been conducted openly, and multiplying.

Thus, whatever is authentic is pushed by censorship into the sphere of the unofficial, but everything which is unofficial, whatever it is, is pushed by the authorities into the sphere of the official. This is a vicious circle. Why should not culture profit from this opportunity? Before, if the official authorities held up the printing of a book, the writer put his anger in the drawer and suffered in silence, or made the decision to cut and correct by way of compromise. Nowadays he puts his turn to the test of a duplicating machine, makes out a list of writers, and the book will be published. It will find a circulation among readers in the country. Obviously it is not as nicely printed as it would have been by an official publisher, but it will be read with all the greater voracity, since we automatically expect truth and authenticity from an unofficial publication.

Poland in 1977 is a truly strange country. There is feverish activity outside the dead mass of the outward facade, away from all the exasperating culture of the zealous journalists, obedient men of letters, sculptors erecting statues and monuments in honour of the creator-state, copywriters producing 'socially committed' songs. There are periodic printed or duplicated meetings in private houses. Sacred songs and poems are read. Discussions, exhibitions and theatrical performances are organized. And all this is done without the approval of the authorities.

We have long ago abandoned the idea of taming Leviathan. Rather, it is he, terrified by the situation's development, who is trying to tame unofficial culture, to tear someone away from its circle, to bribe this or that author by publishing his book, or by some other method of favour. But it is too late.

It is simply that a new alternative has arisen. Today, instead of compromise, or silence, we are seeing 'compromise or independence', 'compromise or authenticity', 'compromise or freedom'. And we choose the latter.

Stanislaw Baranczak

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Famous quotations

a—Who said 'Not at all, Archbishop: thank you'?

b—Why?

c—In what book on Bimetallism does the following passage appear?

The structural variations in long-term funding, caused by regular seasonal adjustments inevitably attendant upon the regularizing of exchange accounts, cannot be predicted with any certainty, but a rough rule of thumb is provided by deducting above-the-line expenditure from capital accumulation taxes; this, however, will not work in circumstances of rapid expansion in the currency markets, so it

d—Sir Walter Scott? You tell Sir Walter Scott from me that he can stuff his horses into his pibroch and smoke it, thoo.

e—Whereabouts in *The Parisian* does the line 'The owl for all his feathers, was a cold come'?

f—Who said that?

g—Whereabouts in *The Parisian* does the line 'The owl for all his feathers, was a cold come'?

h—Who, and in what novel or play?

i—Fell all the way down the stairs in the Eddystone Lighthouse.

ii—Eloped with Queen Marie of Rumania.

iii—Shook himself.

iv—Did not shoot himself.

v—Tried unsuccessfully to shoot himself.

vi—Shot somebody else.

Events of 1977

a—How many times did Mr Roy Hattersley say 'Inflation will soon be down to single figures'?

b—Which Labour Prime Minister of the 19th century, named James Callaghan, saw his political reputation sink even lower?

c—Who was Geoffrey Rippon, and does it matter?

d—Can you list at least 15 proverbs about communists approved by the year by Mrs Judith Hart?

e—I thought not.

f—How many more lies are we going to be told about Concorde, for goodness' sake?

Television

a—Is it really true about Michael Parkinson?

b—Good God.

c—What is the difference between the Eurovision Song Contest and the Miss World finals?

d—What else, you dirty brutes.

e—Name the leading singer in (i) The Money Programme (ii) Weekend World (iii) News in Welsh (iv) The all-England Sheepdog Trials (v) The Chancellor of the Exchequer talks to Robin Day.

Sport

I know nothing about sport, and take very little interest in any sport at all, so this section will be omitted.

Bernard Levin's Christmas Quiz



Fictional characters

a—In what works do the following characters appear, and who wrote them in each case?

(i) John Smith-Smith, OBE

(ii) Martin Chuzzlewit

(iii) Hamish McPheeskovich

(iv) Robert Muller

(v) Geoffrey Rippon

b—Who, and in what novel or play?

(i) Fell all the way down the stairs in the Eddystone Lighthouse

(ii) Eloped with Queen Marie of Rumania

(iii) Shook himself

(iv) Did not shoot himself

(v) Tried unsuccessfully to shoot himself

(vi) Shot somebody else

c—Which of Dickens's male characters uses the word 'nevertheless' most often?

d—Who says, and in which play of Shakespeare's, 'All happy families are happy in the same way, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way'?

e—What famous novelist wrote a book of over a million words without ever revealing what it was about?

General Knowledge

a—Why does water flow uphill in West Africa, and why is this phenomenon only observed in rainy weather?

b—What is the capital of the Maldives Republic?

c—What is the capital of Albania?

d—What is the capital of Sierra Leone?

e—What is the capital of Colonel Seifert, and don't you think it ought to be taken away from him and given to the poor devils who have to work, or worse still, live, in the buildings he puts up?

f—How do you make a Maheese Cross? (All together, now...)

g—How do you make a Venetian Blind? (Let's hear it from the lady in the back row, then...)

h—Orthodox Jews do not eat pork. But in what religions are the following foods forbidden, respectively? Cheese, baked beans, lamb, kippers, white bread, black pudding, red herrings, blueberries, green peas, grey mullet, rainbow trout, tinned sardines in tomato sauce.

i—Where was I?

j—What is the square root of the largest number you can think of?

Special puzzle

John sets out to walk from his home to the village Post Office, four miles away, by a direct route which takes him past the local pub. At the same time Mary, the postmistress, who loves Tom, the village schoolmaster, who is married to Janet, who is an alcoholic, sets out to walk from the Post Office to the pub, a distance of one mile, to buy some cigarettes, not for her but for her old widowed father who lives with her. When she gets to the pub, Janet (the alcoholic wife of Tom, the schoolmaster, remember?) is in the four-mile bar, stewed as a prune and making a scene. Mary quiets her down, but this takes ten minutes, and by the time she has bought the cigarettes, chatted to the manager and left, John has passed the pub on his way to the Post Office, and spends five minutes waiting for her before resuming his walk. Shortly after they part, she is knocked down, though not seriously injured, by an 11-year-old girl on a bicycle. Question: How intensely do you wish that Edward de Bono had never been born?

Music

a—is it true that I cannot stop going on and on about Wagner, or does it just seem that way?

b—What unsuccessful, and for that matter very unpleasant, English politician, wrote music under the name of Suxtehide?

c—Do you think Mozart believes that if they have been good all year and shout up the chimney on Christmas Eve for what they want as Christmas presents, Haverall Brian will come down in a minute and play them one, or even several, of his symphonies?

d—What in goodness' name do you think you've been teaching the poor little mites?

e—Do you think Mozart has so far at any rate, contributed more than Mr Roy Hattersley to civilization? (A clue: I do.)

Tricky ones

a—That man's father is my brother's son, but I can't remember how this goes after it has begun. What is the answer? For that matter, what is the question?

b—Which weighs more, a pound of lead or a pound of feathers? (My old mum used to ask us this one, and catch us every time, too.)

c—What would happen if the earth stopped revolving (i) suddenly (ii) slowly?

d—Why is gravity so much higher on the moon than on earth?

e—What are we going to do about Mr Hattersley?

f—What could we do, even theoretically, about Mr Geoffrey Rippon?

And finally

a—How long have you spent on this quiz?

b—Yes, but hasn't it been more fun than the usual kind?

c—Will you please allow me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year?

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Lighting a festive candle

As the winter evening falls, more and more German houses draw the curtains and, without asking themselves exactly why, light a candle on the sitting room table.

At this time of year the warm flickering glow often rises from an arrangement of fir twigs set with frosted cones and berries. Sometimes these candles are carved into elaborate shapes, others are long and tapering, deep and translucent. In fact, Christmas trees in public parks and squares where electric lights are unavailable they are simulated

white candles with pure white flames.

The demand for candles in West Germany is mounting steadily, while purchases of other consumer goods have levelled off. A record of about 60,000 tons of candles is expected to be burned by the end of this year. Last year it was about 50,000 tons or nearly 2 lb for every man, woman and child.

Prof Konrad-Kotting, head of the Institute for 'Folklore' at Münster, believes the passion for candles is not merely due to the deep roman-

tic streak in the German temperament, but also to the fact that candles are a symbol of hope, life and eternity. Just as their pagan ancestors lit flames as the winter solstice approached, hoping for the return of the sun and rescue from darkness, post-Christian Germans in a different but troubled world are turning to candles.

Patricia Clough

When everything in the garden is not so lovely

Next to weeds, the gnome is the thing I hate most in the garden. Most of my scorn I reserve for the angler who never catches anything and does not seem to care anyway. Equally detestable are the leaping gnome, the squatter and the standing-up, doing-nothing gnome who remind me that, if I had any sense, those are the things I ought to be doing, too.

Hence my lack of enthusiasm as the news that Ann Atkins, a housewife of West Purford in Devon, is about to unleash the Gnome Club of Great Britain. 'I foresee the gnome invasion into all available stings in the country', she says, in a circularized statement that I am determined not to allow to blight my Christmas revelries.

First, she must find gnome-making firms to act as sponsors: so far only one has responded. Then will come a magazine, a badge, and the ultimate horror, a gnome population chart. This chart will be

Herring done to a literary turn

Perhaps it is the long northern winter evenings which encourage them to have peculiar pastimes, but the press officers of the Herring Industry Board based in Edinburgh, seem to have gone to extraordinary lengths to promote the public image of their fish.

The latest calendar produced by the board has a quotation for every month of 1978 ranging from Robert Burns to Jane Grigson from Dryden and Ibsen and Ben Franklin—and all mentioning the oily fish.

One or two of the contributions may be going a bit far. There is, for example, the Dutch proverb which holds that: 'A land with plenty of herring has little need of doctors.' The chairman of the Herring Industry Board, after all, is a retired general practitioner.

Nevertheless, they have found the requisite 12 quotations: 'It is surprising that one form of fish should have such a literary presence', an adamant PR man told me. 'After all, how many references could you find to, say, salmon?'

Break, break, break—much earlier

Spare a thought for the superannuated choirboy you run into in any of the King's College music-making on radio and television this Christmas. Apparently, choristers are being cut off in their prime, not only in Cambridge but the whole world over. In the words of one distinguished university choirmaster, it is proving a 'damn nuisance'.

Blame puberty. Unlike inflation, it gets worse all the time. Twenty years ago, I am told, it was nothing for a chorister to retain his youthful treble until he was 15. Now, thanks

to the bi-sexual revolution, voices usually break at 13, and some at 12 or even earlier.

It takes some years to train a chorister, who does not anyway normally leave an institution like the King's College School until he is 13 or over. So you can well understand the annoyance of early vocal fractures.

Happily, the authorities take pity on the casualty, and rather than chuck him out on the spot, put him out to pasture for a term or two.

Right you are

If you have wrangled the Christmas presents in any, prepare to unwrap them and start again. A great nuisance about this gift-giving business is that recipients have no right to get redress or replacement if the bidden item you bought them happens to be faulty.

To save inconvenience, embarrassment and waste of money, take advantage of

section 136 of the Law of Property Act 1925

All you have to do is to write on the card which you enclose with the present: 'To my dear so-and-so with all my love of Goods Act rights.' If you want to be really careful, have the card dated and witnessed. Armed with the rights thus conveyed, your friends and relatives will be able to get satisfaction—even if you have given them a dud.

The bumping really has to stop

As the editor of *Dance and Dancers* has this month invited reactions from his readers to the business of whether the Royal Ballet properly rehearsed Les Noces or not (about which I commented in a recent Diary), I feel having taken advice from professional dancers, that I might as well react.

Wayne Eagling, in a letter to this newspaper, defended the Royal Ballet management. Mr Eagling, who apart from being a great dancer is also the deputy equity representative at Covent Garden, did not explain the eccentricities of the performance of which I complained.

Blue eye shadow and canine lips do not in the view of those more expert than I in these matters, lend to the

authenticity of the male corps de ballet, especially when those personified happen on the night to bump into one another during certain passages of dance.

Dance and Dancers, the perfect play, indeed be 'unobtainable' (as I have often said in this column) but 'slapdash' and haphazard rehearsals, as members of the Ballet themselves describe them, must surely be recognized even by critics who 'do not find it necessary to integrate themselves with ballet management or members of the Royal Ballet.

No prizes for tact will go to the *Chaffield* firm which, advertising its central heating boilers, says: 'Use your head—Burn wood.'

I hope that things cannot be as bad as they sound for a certain Mr Brown of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, who was due to address a personnel and recruitment managers' meeting organized recently by the Jobcentre at Morley in West Yorkshire. Unfortunately, he had to go into hospital.

The Jobcentre letter which gives notification of the meeting, mentions Mr Brown's incapacity and adds, ominously you might think: 'A colleague of his will be coming along to discuss the problem of termination of employment whilst on sick.'

Four hundred hard-up winners, already receiving first rebates, are to get a £10 Christmas bonus from Royal Artillery funds.

Hard day at the office party, darling?

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THE PRESIDENT PROPS THE DOLLAR

The immediate effect of President Carter's statement this week was to strengthen the dollar on the foreign exchanges. Although the President's words were not very different from those spoken by his Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the Treasury, Mr Anthony Solomon, just a few weeks earlier, the markets attach more weight to the pronouncements of a President.

They are probably right to do so. The Administration has recently been made acutely aware of the concern overseas at what appeared to be American indifference to the currency upheavals of the last few weeks. Although the dollar has not fallen very far in effective, trade weighted, terms, it has dropped very sharply against the strong European currencies and the Japanese yen. This had begun to pose a serious threat to the exports and growth in those countries.

America would prefer to see internal adjustment and expansion in the surplus countries, most particularly Germany and Japan, rather than to underwrite their trade surpluses and encourage them to preserve undervalued exchange rates. It has therefore been unwilling to join an international support operation for the dollar which would impose fundamental market forces.

This position has not been changed by President Carter's statement. He has however reaffirmed a commitment to "orderly market conditions".

While some readjustment of currency values was necessary in view of the massive imbalance in payments positions, an international crisis of confidence would be as unwelcome to the Americans as to any other government.

Their friends abroad argued strongly at the Basle meeting of bankers last week, and in other international meetings, that this could be a real possibility. The Federal Reserve Board has hitherto been more sympathetic than the White House or the Treasury. However, the President has recognized that continuing silence from the Government on its exchange rate policy would be taken as a signal for another scramble out of dollars.

A further sharp fall in the dollar's value would probably do little to cut America's trade deficit and, in one important respect, could worsen it considerably. President Carter's statement was not aimed merely at calming European and Japanese nerves. It has been rumoured that Arab ministers now attending the oil exporters conference knew that it was coming. Whether or not this is the case, the President was obviously aware that a continued weakening of the dollar would increase the likelihood of a rise in America's huge oil import bill. This could come through a switch by OPEC to pricing in other currencies, or through a rise in the quoted dollar price.

A chronically weak dollar would also make the OPEC countries think twice about investing

their revenues in America. A large switch in these funds would throw the world's already shaky monetary system into confusion. There is still another constituency to which the President aimed his speech. This is the American Congress, which is still dilly-dallying over Mr Carter's energy bill. The conspicuous failure of the United States to curb its voracious appetite for oil has been a major contributing factor to its trade deficit this year. The lack of an energy policy has increased the market's pessimistic view of the outlook for the dollar.

The Administration is not likely to change its view of the need for further economic expansion next year, and it would damage the prospects for world growth if it did. However, there is an urgent need for action to cut American oil imports. The measures announced this week are little more than a gesture in that direction.

Foreign governments have welcomed the President's recognition of America's responsibility to the rest of the world. It is too soon to tell whether the Administration will be willing, in the words of the markets, "to put their money where their mouth is" and intervene if necessary to stop a further fall in the dollar's value.

There is still reason to suppose that America should carry the whole burden of world expansion, although there is a strong case for believing that the market has overdone the recent fall in the dollar.

THE FREE FLOW OF SPIRITS IN EUROPE

Those who wish to celebrate Britain's five years of EEC membership next month may find that their favoured brand of whisky costs an extra 50p as a result of the latest ruling of the European Commission in its role as watchdog of the Treaty of Rome. This may seem a poor reward for the country's plunge into the European Economic Community. But in fact the Commission's action against the Distillers' company follows logically from the rules governing the customs union which lies at the commercial heart of the EEC.

Under Distillers' dual price system, the Commission has now banned, United Kingdom wholesalers had to pay more for their Scotch if they wanted to export it. Distillers preferred to sell direct to sole distributors on the Continent, who sold at a price reflecting their warehousing, distribution, advertising and other costs. But this price was in danger of being undercut by "parallel" exporters in the United Kingdom, who bought at a lower price reflecting a series of discounts to large United Kingdom customers.

Hence the premium on Scotch bought in the United Kingdom for export, which the Commission found, following complaints

by the wholesalers, to be in breach of article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. This forbids "any arrangement which has as its object or effect the restriction of competition between undertakings". Distillers' transactions with other trading parties, thereby placing them at a competitive disadvantage.

Rather than reduce the price for exports, Distillers have resorted to applying to the Price Commission to increase the United Kingdom price for certain brands by fifty pence. The biggest exporting brand, Johnny Walker Red Label, will be withdrawn from the United Kingdom market. The price of Haig, the biggest seller at home, will be kept at the present level, in the hope presumably that it will pick up sales lost by the other brands. Haig is thus likely to become the favoured brand of United Kingdom or continental wholesalers buying in the United Kingdom.

The Commission has in the past played an extremely useful role in preventing large companies in a dominant position from carving up the market, either by forming price cartels or by preventing dealers in one member state from exporting to others at prices undercutting arrangements with sole distributors. Previous rulings have covered gramophone records, Philips electric razors and Armagnac.

In the present case of whisky and other spirits, the usefulness of the Commission's action is shrouded first by Distillers' fighting reaction to it—the Commission had clearly expected a reduction in the export price, rather than an increase in the home price; and secondly, by the huge discrepancies in the retail price of spirits in the Nine caused by differing levels of duty.

In the case of France, Italy and Denmark, these discriminate shamelessly in favour of domestic spirits and against imports. In all cases except Denmark, however, they result in whisky being cheaper in the shops than in Britain. The distortion in trade resulting from these duties is of a vasty greater order than that resulting from the arrangements limiting exports of the major British manufacturers of spirits (other British firms have similar arrangements which may also be ended).

It is, however, easier to brandish the Treaty of Rome at big firms than at governments. The Commission has been doing its duty, unpalatable though the result may prove to be. One day, perhaps, it will have the nerve to tackle the member states about the larger obstacles to the genuinely free flow of spirits within the community.

CHAOS IN THE STUDIO IS NOT DISCUSSION

Over the past month, interrupted briefly by legal proceedings, commercial television has shown three hour-long programmes, the work of Mr Antony Thomas, on various aspects of the apartheid regime in South Africa. They made powerful, passionate and, in parts, deeply moving viewing. Mr Thomas was clearly shocked by much of what he saw and his abhorrence of a system which can produce the results he so vividly demonstrated. It is not in issue that he produced excellent pieces of television journalism. What has been questioned, however, is his journalistic objectivity and integrity. Part of one of the programmes has now become the subject of further legal proceedings at the suit of Tate and Lyle, who believe that they have been defamed by various allegations made about their treatment of their black workers. The series as a whole was discussed by a panel and a number of studio guests in a programme shown on Wednesday night.

That discussion did a great disservice to the important issues which the series had raised. The panel consisted of Mr Thomas,

Mr van der Walt, the Director of Information of the South African Embassy in London, and Mr Louis Luyt, one of South Africa's most prominent Afrikaner businessmen. The audience was made up of two or three dozen people with particular interest in South Africa. They included a former white political prisoner, a black trade union leader, a man who was about to emigrate to that country, some who had returned in disgust, a spokesman for the black consciousness cause, a white doctor who had worked in a hospital for blacks, a businessman with financial interest in the republic, a Conservative MP, and representatives of virtually every other conceivable opinion on South African matters. The result of all of these people trying to have their say was, predictably, chaotic.

The format of the programme made it inevitable that none of the serious issues which begged to be seriously discussed was covered, except sporadically and superficially, and that none of the questions which should have been put to Mr Thomas, and answered by him, was allowed more than a brief airing. Most of the audience raised points and made comments of complete

irrelevance to the programmes supposedly under scrutiny. Mr van der Walt, who looked capable of having an intelligent and informative debate with Mr Thomas, if permitted, was scarcely allowed to make even the most cursory of remarks before the chairman felt bound to cut him off in order to give others a turn.

It was not the fault of the chairman, but of the format, that what should have been a structured debate on an important topic turned into a succession of disjointed, undistinguished and sometimes silly statements. The BBC as well as ITV have allowed a number of issues of moment to be intellectually destroyed by subjecting them to the same kind of treatment. The result, in every case, has been the same. The format has made it impossible to have a reasoned debate. It is a sign of poverty of imagination and judgment of the television companies that they have persisted for so long in promoting argumentative discussion programmes of so little value. It is particularly unfortunate that Mr Thomas's powerful series which raised vital issues and deserved and required serious examination should have been treated in this way.

BBC wavelength changes

From Mr M. G. Scroggie
Sir, Howard Newby, in his article (December 15) explaining the forthcoming changes in BBC radio wavelengths, makes it all sound very reassuring for listeners, but he raises over an important point, hinging on doubt that it won't be noticed. He mentions in passing that the Radio 4 channel on VHF is used also for educational matter instead of some Radio 4 programmes. So would be listeners to those programmes, some of which are extremely popular, will in practice have no alternative to long waves. These waves are much more subject to noise interference than medium waves. And both long and medium provide only a second class service, being mono only and restricted in tone range compared with VHF. So can claim no place in a "hi-fi" system.

Years ago the BBC advised listeners to go for VHF for all channels; those who did so are now

—and in the new plan—unable to receive parts of the Radio 4 service.

The obvious solution is to use a separate VHF channel for the educational broadcasts. Internationally, VHF frequencies between 88 and 100 MHz are allocated for broadcasting. In this country, however, those from 95 to 100 are withheld from broadcasters. If this were not so, all the Radio 4 programmes could be broadcast on VHF, with education on its own new channel. Another important advantage of an all-VHF receiver is the ease with which it can be designed for push button operation, instead of forcing on listeners the quite difficult as well as tedious operation of tuning in. It will be more difficult still next year, with obsolete station markings on the tuning scales.
Yours faithfully,
M. G. SCROGGIE,
12 Pinewoods,
Beckhill,
December 15.

The courteous gull

From Mrs Caroline Oliver
Sir, From a window in Bloomsbury I can see a tower surrounded by a dome, surrounded by a smaller dome, surrounded by a stone ball. On the top of the ball is a tiny platform, possibly made of gum. On winter mornings the platform is occupied almost continuously by gulls, but never for long by the same one. The changeover rate can be as high as three a minute. The incumbent gull almost always flies in from the east. On a few occasions I have seen the dispossessed gull sail rapidly round and regain its position. Just once, I saw an approach from the side, which was dealt with successfully by the incumbent with a scally. The resultant male looked momentarily very dangerous.
Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE OLIVER,
7 Cranfield House,
Southampton Row, WC1.

Future of the Moors murderers

From Mr Michael Cates
Sir, In his article "Is there any Chance of Myra Hindley ever being freed?" (December 21), Bernard Levin, as usual, builds up a superficially convincing argument by basing it on an assumption which he ruthlessly claims to be "obvious". I refer to the passage: "The deterrent effect of the life sentence on Miss Hindley and Mr Brady for the appalling crimes of which they were both justly convicted is, and always was, obviously nil".

Mr Levin argues that people of the sort that commit atrocities like the Moors murders are unlikely to be deterred by the prospect of a life sentence. Whilst this is undoubtedly correct, he obviously fails to comprehend that the deterrent effect of a sentence operates on a far broader range of potential criminals than just those who might commit an identical crime to that for which the sentence was given.

Thus the potential rapist, mugger, common murderer, etc., will, if Miss Hindley is released, say to himself: "She only got a medium closed watch for the things she did, so for my far less horrible crime they cannot put me away even for that long."

As the deterrent factor has to be dismissed by Mr Levin before the rest of his article can be taken as relevant, his entire argument that, if Myra Hindley is not dangerous, only political pressures will prevent her release, is seen to collapse.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CATES,
11 Cedar Park,
Bristol,
December 21.

From Mr P. D. R. Talbot Willcox
Sir, Mr Levin's article deserves criticism for the following reasons: 1. He makes the mistake of confusing crime with sin. Miss Hindley is in prison for crime. Whether or not she sinned is a question upon which the churches have no obligation to offer an opinion, and I for one would be astonished were they to do so.

2. Mr Levin has failed to show that the impulses which lead to crimes of the sort committed by Miss Hindley are beyond deterrence. He merely asserts a popular myth.

3. He dangerously assumes that repentance of crime is proof of reform.

4. He is completely wrong in his assertion that the law of the land is powerless to stop this gross abuse of liberty, or as the cuts claim "freedom of religion and the principles of our free society". The Home Office, the Police and the Charity Commissioners know of these abuses but refuse to take decisive action.

5. A democratic society the individual needs protection against those who use the law (or lack of it) to proselytize by methods which are clearly contrary to the public interest. This would reduce these megalomaniac cults to size, and protect our citizens, young and old, from their evil designs.
Yours sincerely,
K. F. FRAMPTON, Chairman of

From Mr Rhys Manley-Sale
Sir, If your publication had existed at a somewhat earlier date, I might have received similar letters from distraught mothers and representatives of the established religion concerning the aggressively evangelistic activities of a certain non-U sect led by an ex-tax collector named Paul?

Yours faithfully,
REVS MANLEY-SALE,
10 Burstock Road, SW15.

Machiavellian

From Mr Jan Le Witt
Sir, During the recorded conversation (article, December 20) that took place recently in Florence between your interviewer and Signor Niccolò Machiavelli, Dr John Rae would not deny that man has made some progress, to which Machiavelli allegedly replied: "Is it progress if a cannibal uses knife and fork?"

It is a pity that Dr Rae failed to pin Machiavelli down, for to put the record straight this superbly ironic aphorism did not take root in Machiavelli's cunning mind but was in fact coined by Spenshaw Lee, a Polish poet and aphorist, who lived some 430 years after the proverbial Florentine "pessimist".
Yours faithfully,
JAN LE WITT,
117 Ledbury Road,
Holland Park, W11,
December 20.

From the Reverend Roger Symon
Sir, I am sorry to read that even Machiavelli is going soft in the head in his old age. In answer to John Rae's question: "Man is irredeemably wicked?" he is recorded as having replied: "Yes, I wish it were not so." Why so? No wonder the Church survives.
Yours faithfully,
ROGER SYMON,
1 Porchester Gardens, W2,
December 20.

The Mostyn flagons

From Mr Claude Blair
Sir, My old friend Arthur Grimwade's letter (December 21), written

upon society by a Home Secretary who released such a woman. I am not saying that the risk should never be taken but that it should not be overlooked.

Meanwhile reports on Miss Hindley's behaviour from prison authorities and others and even the most convincing evidence of repentance would never satisfy me that there was not a major risk in releasing a person who, in Mr Levin's own words, was "capable of carrying out radical practices of the kind involved in their case", and who might well be "incapable of weighing the consequences for their victims"—a person the origins of whose impulses were buried deep in the human psyche. How can we be sure they have been dug up? Indeed can they ever be dug up?

In such circumstances it is not perhaps fortunate that the law provides in practice for an element of retribution? For if a child or a person believes in an appalling fashion there comes a time when retribution is salutary, necessary and right. A "sane" person, even a person who has been dug up, would be too dangerous to release.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. R. TALBOT WILLCOX,
Thamescroft,
Shamley Green,
Guldford,
Surrey,
December 21.

From Monsignor Bruce Kent
Sir, Perhaps Mr Levin is not really fair to "high church dignitaries". I have never heard of one supporting any theory of life-long retributive incarceration.

When Pope Paul announced the 1975 Holy Year, echoing the book of Leviticus, he appealed to governments for the early release of prisoners—even those guilty of crimes of violence. He asked for a gesture of clemency applicable especially to those "who have given sufficient proof of their moral and civil rehabilitation".

Myra Hindley not excluded.
Yours faithfully,
BRUCE KENT,
St. Aloysius Church,
20 Phoenix Road, NW1,
December 22.

who question their codes or conduct. The last mentioned is evidenced by two of your "Moon" correspondents, Mr Masters and Mrs Farrow (December 17). In the main we know your exposé has been factual. Even so you may well attract another of their many writs for libel, issued to silence opponents.

But the real tragedy behind all this is that every day more parents and friends are joining the thousands who suddenly find their children missing, some without trace, others to turn up later alienated and often completely changed in personality or mentally deranged.

Meanwhile, the law of our land is powerless to stop this gross abuse of liberty, or as the cuts claim "freedom of religion and the principles of our free society". The Home Office, the Police and the Charity Commissioners know of these abuses but refuse to take decisive action.

In a democratic society the individual needs protection against those who use the law (or lack of it) to proselytize by methods which are clearly contrary to the public interest. This would reduce these megalomaniac cults to size, and protect our citizens, young and old, from their evil designs.
Yours sincerely,
K. F. FRAMPTON, Chairman of

From Mr Rhys Manley-Sale
Sir, If your publication had existed at a somewhat earlier date, I might have received similar letters from distraught mothers and representatives of the established religion concerning the aggressively evangelistic activities of a certain non-U sect led by an ex-tax collector named Paul?

Yours faithfully,
REVS MANLEY-SALE,
10 Burstock Road, SW15.

from the Garrick Club, about the Mostyn flagons cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged. His long experience as Christie's silver expert has given him more right than most to have his opinions about the aesthetics of English plate taken seriously. Nevertheless, they are no more than opinions, however forcibly expressed, and in this case many other people who can claim to have equal authority in such matters certainly do not share them. They are apparently not shared even by Mr Grimwade's colleagues, for he has changed his opinion during the last six months) for when the flagons were sold by Christie's on June 29 they were illustrated in colour as the frontispiece to the sale catalogue and described as "A pair of highly important Elizabethan silver-gilt flagons".

The flagons are, of course, of the very greatest importance both as works of art and, because of their long association with an ancient and distinguished Welsh family, as historical relics. Even if all the Elizabethan flagons still in their original homes listed by Mr Grimwade were closely comparable to the Mostyn ones, which is not the case, their loss to the country would still be tragic. Mr Grimwade seems to be suggesting that the nation should adopt a Noah's Ark policy towards the export of works of art: providing we retain one or two examples of each type the remainder can be "allowed to go. I cannot believe that he really means this.

Yours faithfully,
CLAUDE BLAIR, Keeper,
Department of Metalwork,
Victoria and Albert Museum,
South Kensington, SW7,
December 21.

Continuation of the Lib-Lab pact

From Mr Stephen Ross, MP for the Isle of Wight (Liberal)
Sir, Whoever it is who talks freely to the press about private meetings of the Parliamentary Liberal Party could, I think, his colleagues, the favour of getting his facts right. I have little doubt, speaking as one who was present last Wednesday week, that had a vote been taken at our morning session there would have been a majority against breaking off the agreement with the Government forthwith.

For what it is worth my own backing for the Steel strategy remains undiminished.
Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ROSS,
House of Commons,
December 20.

From Lord O'Hagan
Sir, Mr Hamilton (December 19) lives in a splendid Liberal world.

(1) The Lib-Lab pact has been a European election; the Conservatives would have kept to the target date.

(2) The Liberal Party has sustained in office an anti-European and unrepresentative Labour Government long enough to give it a chance of winning another election.

(3) The virulent anti-market forces in the Labour Government have blackened Britain's name in the Community; Tory antis are in a small minority, and would at least behave better when abroad.

(4) Mr Hamilton threatens to take to the streets to fight for representative democracy. Perhaps the crowds will mass under the

oriflamme of proportional representation. They are more likely to remember that the Liberals kept Messrs Foot and Benn in power. Yours faithfully,
O'HAGAN,
Sutton Court,
Penford, Bristol,
December 19.

From Mr R. S. Swann
Sir, Even though it has been decided that our elections for the European Assembly will be on the "first past the post" system, need we despair of holding them in mid-1978 as all the Community member Governments wish?

Serious delay is inevitable if we use the traditional Boundary Commission method to delimit the 81 "European" constituencies. And, as it is certain that anything political can be that this operation would apply only to the first of these elections, some alternative to this admirably fair but ponderous and expensive operation can surely be found. In 1947 Sir Cyril Radcliffe, as he then was, completed the task of drawing new boundaries for India and Pakistan in little more than a month. It involved immense compromise—both religious and economic—but the boundaries he drew practically single handed have endured to this day.

To group the existing 635 parliamentary constituencies into 81 should be a comparatively child's play. Why not entrust a single senior judge with this task?
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT S. SWANN,
6 Collingham Gardens, SW5.

Manslaughter verdict

From Mr John Hampden Inskip, QC, and Mr Christopher Clark
Sir, In view of certain extravagant public statements made about the sentence in the recent case of R v Liddle at Winchester Crown Court, may we endeavour to put the record straight.

The jury in the case were asked to give a special verdict as to the grounds on which their manslaughter verdict was reached. Consistent with the special verdict given were the following propositions of fact.

1. The accused came across the body of the deceased lying at the side of a country lane.
2. On examining the body he thought it was dead.
3. He had reasonable grounds for believing the deceased had been knocked down by a car driven by his co-accused and taken without the owner's consent a few minutes earlier.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAMPDEN INSKIP,
CHRISTOPHER CLARK,
3 Pump Court,
Temple, EC4,
December 19.

The Star of Bethlehem

From Dr D. H. Clark and others
Sir, The Bishop of Kingston (December 20) is correct in pointing out that we were not the first to find evidence for the Star of Bethlehem in Far Eastern records. Neither we, nor The Times Religious Affairs Correspondent, have ever claimed that we were the originators of a possible link between a nova in the Star of Bethlehem and the Christmas story. The authors cited by the Bishop have made no more than passing references to such an association and have not pursued it further. Our work is the first detailed interpretation of the records and we would claim that our searches (like those of the original Wise Men) have been concluded successfully.

Unfortunately the Bishop does not appear to have read our paper entitled "An Astronomical Re-appraisal of the Star of Bethlehem" which was published in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society. As astronomers, we concentrated our attention on the Astronomical Treatise of the Chinese rather than the poem, the Annals, where the poem, referred to by the Bishop, is recorded. From studies of eclipses,

planetary conjunctions, etc. we have shown that reports in the Astronomical Treatise are generally of high reliability whereas reports in the Annals are of doubtful origin and dubious reliability.

It is pleasing that we and the Bishop do appear to be in agreement that the Star of Bethlehem had a stellar, rather than a planetary origin. We remain, Sir, the Three Wise Men from the West,
DAVID H. CLARK, Principal Research Fellow,
Astrophysics Division,
Royal Greenwich Observatory,
Herstmonceux Castle,
Hailsham, Sussex;
JOHN H. PARKINSON, Lecturer in Astrophysics,
Mullard Space Science Laboratory,
Department of Physics & Astronomy,
University College London,
Holmbury St Mary,
Dorking,
Surrey;
P. RICHARD STEPHENSON,
Research Associate,
Institute of Lunar and Planetary Sciences,
School of Physics,
University of Newcastle,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Buying books

From Mr C. C. W. Hamrick
Sir, Mr J. D. Cable's (December 16) complaint concerning the length of time that it takes to obtain books is justified. The existing system of distribution is simply not adequate for the 300,000 or so books in print published by over 3,000 publishers and sold through as many shops.

The answer to this problem lies partly in speeding up the existing methods of ordering and distribution. All publishers, not just a very few, should be required to turn round in three days and not up to three or more weeks. The book trade's recognized carrier system should be backed or sacked and frequently expressed, as used as a bargaining counter with other carriers.

Many more books should be stocked and sold through wholesalers who understand the daily needs of the reading public. The specious argument, frequently used by publishers, that wholesaling leads to an under use of their own warehouses must be rebutted; there is no point in a publisher spending vast sums of money on a book warehousing system if, when books are needed, he cannot service the orders in a reasonable time.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HAMMICK,
Chairman and Managing Director,
"Hammicks",
16 Newnham Lane, Alton.

Publishers are not the only ones at fault. Smaller booksellers must get into the habit of using wholesalers to give a better service. Booksellers must act in consortia to set up their own bulk buying and wholesaling operations like the "village shops"—20 years ago; if they do not do this, many of the small shops will not survive. Wholesalers must refrain from the temptation only to stock the easier selling lists and employ people with enough bookkeeping experience to choose and maintain the sophisticated stock required by a large public. It has to be acknowledged, however, that it is unlikely that they will be able to hold, for resale, many academic or technical books.

Mr Cable has expressed the frustration which is felt by individual readers as well as librarians and other professional librarians in the context of books, publishers, and booksellers is a qualitative measurement which we can be proud of, but only if it leads to combined action to frustrate lethargy and incompetence.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HAMMICK,
Chairman and Managing Director,
"Hammicks",
16 Newnham Lane, Alton.

Prospect at The Old Vic

From Mr Toby Robertson
Sir, Your drama critic's review of The Actors' Company's production of The Importance of Being Earnest at the Round House begins with the sentence: "With the Prospect Theatre Company's entrenchment at the Old Vic, there is likely to be an increasing scope for any troupe that can commit itself to touring and productions around neglected provincial areas." This implies that with Prospect at the Old Vic there is less likelihood of Prospect working from the Old Vic. I hope you will allow me to correct this misconception.

With Prospect working from the Old Vic the company will tour more, less productions to the regions. Quality as well as quantity will be improved: already this autumn the

company working from the Old Vic has broken box office records for straight drama in four regional centres.

I hope the Actors' Company will continue to tour and thereby complement the work that Prospect has done as the one company which has consistently toured the major theatres in the regions since 1969.

With the Old Vic as a metropolitan base, Prospect will be able, not only to develop the company's work in the regions but also to sustain the Old Vic in London, a theatre which has an unrivalled record of service to London and the regions.

Yours faithfully,
TOBY ROBERTSON, Director,
Prospect Theatre Company,
The Old Vic Annex,
83 The Cut, SE1.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Christmas in the gilt market

Sterling was not the only currency to suffer yesterday as the dollar mounted a late Christmas rally after President Carter's confidence-boasting statement. But the sharpness of the reaction was enough to leave the gilt market to drift lower as the allocations for the new Treasury 101 per cent 1999 stock were awaited.

In the event, it looks as if something like £150m was put up for the stock in its £15 paid form—£120m was needed for full subscription—with the market suggesting that there may well have been considerable overseas interest, some foreigners apparently still preferring to buy stock from the primary source rather than in the secondary market.

What happens to the price in first dealings tomorrow remains to be seen, but the general assumption is that any premium will be very minimal. But while some domestic stages may move out quickly ahead of the holiday period and some overseas buyers might have their nerve shaken by yesterday's relapse in sterling, there should be fresh buyers around to take up the slack.

The assumption in the market remains that short-term interest rates should soften in early January and that the news on the pay front could be favourable enough to see long yields drop a little further. True, the run in £15 paid form is not all that long—there is a call for £40 per cent on January 9—but the authorities may be able to hold MLR just long enough to keep marginal investors on the hook. In the short-term, tomorrow's buyers will have a four-day run over the holiday period before settlement is due.

Textiles

An historic turning point?

Textile company shares have so far signally failed to respond to the enthusiastic pronouncement from Mr Edmund Dell, trade secretary, that the new Multi-Fibre Arrangement will prove "an historic turning point" in the fortunes of the United Kingdom textile and clothing industries. This does not mean that there is any lack of interest in the new four-year deal which will mean very much tighter restrictions on products representing around 75 per cent of textile imports into Britain.

On the contrary, the agreement goes much further than anyone thought possible a year ago, and much of the credit is being given to the toughness of the Government's negotiating posture. But in fact, shares have already shown some relative strength

in recent weeks as it became clear that the deal could be a good one for the British industry's point of view, and for the rest it is a question of awaiting greater detail in the New Year.

There is still some worry about how effectively the MFA can be policed; but it tentatively looks as though the progressive inroads into the British market by imports during recent years may now be halted. In the first place that would bring benefits to companies like Courtaulds, Carrington Viyella and Tootal which are essentially high volume, low cost producers.

But obviously the MFA is only one among a variety of factors for the textile industry as a whole. Its prospective benefits have to be seen in the context of gross over-capacity in fibres—especially painful for Courtaulds.



Sir Arthur Knight, chairman of Courtaulds.

—a stronger pound which is making exporting progressively harder, and continuing flat markets which do not appear to be getting much uplift from the festive season.

Where it could be a help, however, would be in the event of the anticipated revival in consumer demand. In the past such upswings have tended to be satisfied by a sucking in of cheap imports, and if that does not now recur the more highly-gearred operations ought to be exceptionally well placed to increase profits. Much will continue to depend on the pound's performance, but material costs will not be rising much, wage increases seem likely to be modest, and there is every prospect of textile company profits at least growing as fast as those of industry as a whole.

In the meantime there is now a sufficient discrepancy between share prices and asset values for textile companies again to begin offering the prospect of a reasonable return on capital on a medium-term view, and with one or two known predators around in the sector the New Year could well see bids for one or two of the smaller companies.

Gold shares without the surrender

Judging by turnover in gold shares in the stock market yesterday, one would not have believed that the day before it had been announced that the 25 per cent surrender rule would be abolished. There was little business yesterday and it will probably be well into January before any trends develop, if indeed they are going to.

In the short-term there might be net disinvestment of overseas stocks as long suffering shareholders take the opportunity to rationalize overseas portfolios without having to bear the surrender penalty. However, this is not likely to have such an effect on holders of South African gold and other mining shares since political events in South Africa have probably shaken out most of the stale bulls by now.

Before the dollar premium was extended to South Africa four years ago it was estimated that gold shares with some £900m were held in London. The figure now has been put at £90m. Whether the changes announced this week will enable London to win back its former preeminence in the gold market from the Americans must remain a very moot point given the hefty contraction which has taken place here.

The abolition of the surrender may not lead to any new net investment in South Africa because political factors have already taken over as the dominant determining factor. Institutions would certainly need far

more fundamental changes to alter their views on investing in South Africa.

However, the abolition of the surrender rule could bring back into fashion the switching mechanism, always a prime factor in the South African gold share market, and which made it an exciting, if exacting, market to follow. With the surrender worth about 7 per cent, investors needed to see an appreciation of some 12 per cent before making a capital gain on their investment and that was a heavy price to pay in such a politically sensitive market.

Meanwhile, abolition of the surrender saw an immediate marking down in the price of Consolidated Gold Fields—the prime non-premium gold stock—and to a lesser extent of Charter Consolidated. The reasoning here being that direct gold share investment is now more attractive. Nevertheless, the abolition of the surrender has increased the value of the mining houses overseas investment portfolios: for example, about £5m to £6m has been added to the value of Cons Gold's overseas investment portfolio (excluding associates) which was worth about £60m to £70m at the end of June.

Given the South African situation, however, there is now likely to be much greater interest shown in American mining companies—groups like Kennecott, ASARCO, St Joe and Phelps Dodge.

The adjustments being made by whisky's biggest producer to comply with EEC requirements are not likely to be a serious setback

Distillers blends a subtle market strategy

The Distillers Company's apparent willingness to sacrifice sales in Britain to comply with EEC Commission requirements on competition policy reflects fundamental differences in the home and overseas markets for Scotch whisky.

On the face of it, by withdrawing, Johnnie Walker Red Label and other leading brands from the United Kingdom and seeking to put up the price of others, the Distillers Company is risking a large slice of its home market. Sales of Scotch whisky in the United Kingdom have an annual retail value of more than £600m and it is estimated that the company holds well over 30 per cent of this business.

In practice, the risks are not as great as they seem. Scotch whisky is a national drink in Britain, representing more than half of all spirit sales—far more than gin, brandy or vodka—whereas in other EEC countries it accounts for a small, though growing, fraction, typically less than 5 per cent of spirit sales.

British whisky drinkers are much less likely to react to price and other changes by abandoning a well-established habit than are their continental neighbours. Sales have already withstood price increases this year comparable to the maximum proposed by the Distillers Company.

A duty increase implemented in January raised the price of whisky per bottle by approximately 25p, on top of which there was added in March a manufacturers' rise of about 12p. Yet, if the distortions caused by the trade stocking up in advance of the increases and sharp price competition at retail level are ironed out, there has been little impact on overall sales volumes.

Cheaper brands

What has happened over the past few years as a result of a combination of the general pressure on disposable incomes and heavy tax increases has been a spate of cheaper Scotch whisky brands.

Backed by little or no advertising these are designed to sell on price alone and have surprised even the manufacturers by winning very wide acceptance in a short time. Brands in the new category include King's Royal, marketed by Teacher's, the Real MacKenzie, from a Bell's subsidiary, and Claymore, introduced in September by Distillers. All are designed to be promoted by the same means as the more expensive brands and other price conscious offerings at more than 20p cheaper than rival, but more familiar, brands.

Such a development would not be possible at this stage in the embryonic though fast growing Scotch whisky market. In almost all of these markets Scotch whisky faces tax discrimination which favours locally produced spirits. As a result, since it is invariably more expensive than local spirits, it is sold as a prestige product and consumers are highly suspicious (often with justification) of unknown names.

As well as retaining a firm foothold in the cheaper bracket, the Distillers Company also has to be seen to be as far as the big brands are concerned. It has firmly stated that the price of Haig, its second biggest selling brand,

in Britain, will remain unchanged.

White there will undoubtedly be a scramble by Teacher's and Bell's, the next two largest Scotch whisky producers, for the Johnnie Walker Red Label share of sales, Distillers is understood to have plans to fight back. A large advertising campaign for Haig is planned for the new year and plans were announced yesterday to introduce a new brand to replace the outgoing version of Johnnie Walker.

British consumers of the four main brands whose prices the Distillers Company is proposing to raise, Black & White, James Watson, Dewar's and Vatted 69, have already shown they will hold to their preference against strong price competition from cheaper rivals. The risk that they will change as a result of increases—their purchases are unit profit margins are fairly slender and dependent on the economies of scale gained through mass production—is qualified.

Slender margins

Apart from regional distinctions, the very large home market for Scotch whisky splits into a variety of segments from supermarket off-licences to public houses and the hotel and catering trade. Each of these reacts in differing ways to price and other changes.

The Distillers Company is by far the largest producer of Scotch whisky, with between 40 and 50 per cent of the industry's output. It operates in a field where unit profit margins are fairly slender and dependent on the economies of scale gained through mass production.

The company has already demonstrated, in a tussle with Teacher's a few years ago, that it can force the pace on prices. It is now suffering very great loss of business through its measures to meet the EEC Commission's requirements.

Moreover, through making the adjustments on the fairly stable domestic front rather than venturing into the more fragile overseas markets, it has the chance of making considerable gains. With the exception of Denmark, all the other EEC countries consume much more spirits per head than does Britain.

Cumulative gains

If the Scotch whisky producers can convert even a few of these to their product, the cumulative gains would be enormous. The Continent already takes exports totalling 15.84 million proof gallons in 1976—representing more than 18 per cent of total overseas sales—as absorbing at least as much whisky as does the United Kingdom.

Growth is hampered by the tax penalties and by the failure to see compliance with the EEC Commission's ruling. The Distillers Company also manages to hasten harmonization, on this front, the benefits to it would be multiplied.

Patricia Tisdall

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Learning to live in the electronic society

The electronic revolution is upon us and we had better be aware that things will never be the same again. We are in the early stages of an upheaval that will prove to be just as disruptive as the established patterns of life as was the Industrial Revolution of the last century.

This warning was given earlier this week by Dr Tom Stomer, Professor of Science and Society at Bradford University. "The quest for industrial jobs is an illusion," he declared. "It's not going to happen."

Speaking at Bath University, Professor Stomer was giving a profile of the so called post-industrial society at a regional conference on "technological change." The conference was organized jointly by the University of Science and Technology Education Centre and the Standing Conference on Schools' Science and Technology.

The heavy increase in unemployment since the 1973 oil crisis, Professor Stomer said, was caused by a straight-forward industrial depression, as sectors believed, but by a long-term, technological displacement of labour. He went on to sketch some features of the post-industrial society.

It had begun to emerge in the mid-1950s in the United States, parts of western Europe, and Japan. It was based on the development, production and application of solid-state microelectronics and accompanying "software".

Just as the Industrial Revolution had mechanically extended the human muscular system; the new electronic revolution was extending the human nervous system. The mechanical era (1900-1950) was giving way to the communicative era—and significant changes were afoot.

These included changes in primary products—from manufactured goods to the production of information and knowledge and the organizing of society—and a change from national to international emphasis, as the new technology, associated with computers, telecommunications, radio and television, made industry in economic activity easier and gave rise to multinational corporations.

Labour-intensive industry

tended to move to sources of cheap labour; mature industry tended to move to the third world, with an inevitable loss of employment in post-industrial societies. These societies experienced inflation and massive unemployment at the same time.

As manufacturing systems became less labour-intensive and more capital-intensive, higher wages and productivity were achieved not by working harder but by new technology. A new ICT Terylene plant would be able to produce as much with 100 people as could the entire labour force of Bradford a century ago.

It was nonsense to say that only industry generated wealth. A good patent could generate as much wealth as a factory.

The shift of employment in Britain was likely to follow that in the United States, Professor Stomer suggested. There, numbers employed in service and manufacturing industries have levelled off, in farm work they have declined and in white-collar occupations they have risen sharply. In this last case the shift has been from clerical and management to technical/professional.

One third of this labour force is concerned with the "knowledge industry"—with creating new knowledge or transmitting information from one person to another.

A handful of microprocessors was today's equivalent in computing power of a fair-sized computer centre only a few years ago, another speaker told the conference. The telecommunications industry in particular was undergoing a painful transition at present from electromechanical to electronic manufacture.

This specific example reinforced Professor Stomer's general case. Mr Kenneth Corfield, the managing director of SIC, one of the three main telecommunications suppliers, has figures to show that, in moving from electromechanical to semi-electronic switching equipment, the number of direct operatives required is decreasing by a factor of 2.6. This change is already under way.

But worse is to come. In the next transition, from semi-electronic to the all-electronic system, for the 1980s and 1990s, there will be a further 10:1 reduction in the production labour required.

The Bath conference was concerned to make such changes known to a wide audience of industrialists, educators and planners. But how should education respond? There is no easy answer, but a number of recent comments are relevant.

Both Professor Stomer and Sir Iwan Madock (in his recent Imperial College jubilee lecture) are convinced that the majority of graduates of the future should be versatile generalists, not specialists, since versatility and interdisciplinary thinking will be all-important.

Dr Patrick Nutgens, Director of Leeds Polytechnic, in his recent Burton paper in the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers, "Learning to some purpose," attacks the conventional assumption in education that technology is applied science. This is a myth, he says: technology is creative ingenuity, a systematic approach to the practical arts, and among many other things, it is at home with change.

And a point made in the general discussion at Bath—the schools should teach pupils to apply knowledge, not merely to acquire it.

Clearly, there is a mismatch between the academic acquisition of knowledge and the needs of industry and society to apply it; and this mismatch could grow out of control as the white technology revolution radical changes in the patterns of work, services and leisure. Food for thought, indeed, in the "great debate" on education.

French farming: a challenge not to be under-rated

COMPARISON OF BRITISH AND FRENCH FARMING

	United Kingdom	France
Farmland (million hectares)	18.6	32.4
Arable percentage (ha)	38	58
Proportion of holdings above 50 ha (%)	31	12
% of population working on the land	4.3	3.9
Average wheat yield (tonnes/hectare)	30	39
Average sugar-beet yield (t/ha)	72	168
Self-sufficiency (%) in grain	18	48
Index of total output: meat	100	168
milk	100	179
cereals	100	262
Index of individual consumption: meat	100	134
vegetables	100	143
sugar	100	13

1 hectare = approx. 2.5 acres.

Fig. based on 1975.

Source: EEC Commission data for 1975

stage. France is still supposed to be the country which shows the loudest about the rules of the policy, while perverting them more ruthlessly than any other member.

Its priority is said to be to maintain the living standards of its incompetent smallholders at a cost of artificially high food prices throughout the EEC. That is a widespread British view and many farmers and food traders will die French policy on dumping

There is enormous strength in French agriculture and the official statistics give ample evidence of rising prosperity

There is little evidence on the 220-hectare site of the fiscal agency in the French farming organizations' speech. There is enormous strength in French agriculture and the official statistics give ample evidence of rising prosperity.

In 1965, they say, only 27 per cent of those who earned their living on the farm had television sets. In 1975, the figure had risen to 88 per cent. The difference in numbers and political influence between the British and French agricultural lobbies is vital to an understanding of the rising strengths in national politics. In Britain the strength which EEC support prices are supposed to give to farmers is ignored or misunderstood by the eating public and circumscribed by ministers, who make the avoidance of food "mountains" a principal feature of their agricultural policies.

To French farmers the rule of the EEC support prices is much simpler and more strongly fixed. They see them as agricultural version of the officially agreed national minimum wage in industry.

The drought of 1976 damaged French farming severely. In 1963 the country's food and agricultural imports cost a third more than exports. By 1974 exports were worth a third more than imports, but the gap was narrowed since 1975 and this year the country expects to finish with an agricultural deficit.

Recovery has been rapid, though, and the influence of France in British food markets is bound to increase. The sheer size of its agriculture is missed in Britain where they are still in the "small" category. The Australian and the great food suppliers of the world.

There is a subtle difference in emphasis, however. British farmers complain about being unable to compete on equal terms with their European counterparts in general, while those in France protest at unfair advantages enjoyed by countries with strong currencies, mentioning the squeeze on French farmers in particular.

They calculate that to buy a particular model of tractor from the United States a French farmer needs to produce two thirds as much milk again as his counterpart in a West German country. They are worried that the squeeze on returns has reduced the competitive edge of French farming so that each extra unit of input produces less extra output than it would in "strong" currencies like West Germany and Holland.

There is a growing realization in the country that the instruments of EEC policy should be used to reform the structure of French farming and not just to still holds the centre of the

proposition. There is a subtle difference in emphasis, however. British farmers complain about being unable to compete on equal terms with their European counterparts in general, while those in France protest at unfair advantages enjoyed by countries with strong currencies, mentioning the squeeze on French farmers in particular.

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Hugh Clayton

Business Diary: Says who • What price Christmas?

The magazine Building, which is aimed at the design and construction world, has come up with a sparkling selection of quotes in its last issue of the year.

Pride of place must go to one remark earlier this year by Eric Lyons, past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, who is reported as saying: "Last week I was uncertain; but now I'm not so sure."

However, there is also this lament from Sir Derek Cress, chairman of the National Coal Board, who, it seems, said recently: "Senior management should not constantly have to think about money problems".

And what about the Public Accounts Committee, who in looking at overspending by the Treasury Services Agency said: "Treasury control is brought into a measure of disrepute when it is seen to be ineffective in practice, but what's it like in theory?"

While most companies are putting up the shutters for at least a week, the watchdog on their doorsteps, the Price Commission, will be letting up hardly at all. Chairman Charles Williams and other commission members should be taking home a pile of papers to study over the holiday.

Members will be having their usual weekly meeting next week on Thursday—a day later than usual—to consider whom next to investigate.

All this activity springs largely from the series of reports on investigations due in



RIBA's Eric Lyons: well, we think it is, anyway.

That description, he said, might be applied to a speaker who is "well-liked, almost inaudible and goes on forever".

Lastly, what of the aside of Sir Hugh Casson, architect and president of the Royal Academy: "That may be all right in practice, but what's it like in theory?"

By new year's day the commission has to deliver its thoughts to Hattersley, on Barclays Bank's cash transmission charges to some nationalized industries and on Metal Box's proposed price increases.

Half a dozen other reports are due to follow at roughly weekly intervals. Among the companies under the microscope are Fisons, United Glass, Tate & Lyle and Ever Ready. British Railways is also getting the Williams treatment.

Whether Mr Lining who, it was announced yesterday, has elected for early retirement and is to step down as British Petroleum Development's general manager for exploration and production? Lining, made a CBE last year, has been closely involved

in the development of the Forties Field in the North Sea. He is still only 54 and all indications are that he is not the sort of man to sit in his Aberdeen home and idly watch the roses grow.

A keep-fit enthusiast who still plays football for the BP sports club team, Lining says that he has no immediate plans, but his colleagues say that he still has much to contribute to the oil industry.

He is being replaced in March by Basil Butler, a former colleague in the Kuwait Oil Company. Butler, who has also had stints in Trinidad, Columbia and Alaska, is now manager of BP's Sullom Voe terminal in Shetland.

For some time to come Nick Cory is going to be one of the most sought after men in Europe—at least so far as the business conference trade is concerned.

Cory, an assistant secretary of the Electrical Contractors' Association, has just taken over from Allan Davies of Shell-Mex as chairman of the Association of Conference Executives.

This is a body which represents both the people who buy conference facilities for their companies or associations and the airlines, hotels, tour operators and conference services people who sell to them.

In the past year Cory has been to Punta Ala, Stresa, Venice and Palermo in Italy, as well as to Madeira, wearing either his ECA or his ACE hat. At ECA, for example, Cory

influences where members will meet for their annual conference. This year it was at Alentejo in the Algarve; next year it will be at Eastbourne; and in 1979, it is likely to be in Italy, possibly at Palermo.

ECA members, he says, like to meet and to sleep all under the one roof. So far as the United Kingdom goes, that means either Brighton, Eastbourne, or Torquay.

In general, the contractors seem to favour one year in this country and the next abroad, where they can rely on good weather while they bemoan the failures of government and the inquiries of the trade unions.

Each year's conference attracts about 350 people, spending about £45,000 over five days. In this country and £80,000 or so abroad. That's just one of the many buyer groups represented in the seven-year-old ACE.

Cory says that where his predecessor built up the overseas chapters so that there are now representatives in about 20 countries, he wants to extend more buyer-members.

ACE, he says, is a market place and there are too many people in commercial and institutional life who do not know that the association exists.

Planning is all very well in its way, but we rather think that the United Kingdom products people are going a little far at the moment in leaving leaflets on people's doorsteps which declare: "Christmas, 1978: is only twelve months away! Start saving now!"

صداش الاصل

ares (25.5 per cent). Board of
Bigfalls was informed but was
not in any way involved in dis-
posal.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

International

World slump no bar to Sony's progress

Sony Corporation, the Japanese electronics giant, says that its consolidated net income in the year ended October 21 rose by 12.9 per cent to a record 34,600 million yen (about £7.25m).

Sales also increased to a new high. They climbed by 9.2 per cent to 506,000 million yen in 1976.

The parent company's net income rose by 16.8 per cent to 24,600 million yen in 1976.

Sales rose by 12.7 per cent to 391,900 million yen against 347,900 million yen in 1975.

The group said that "sluggish economic activity throughout the industrial world during 1977, as well as inflation and currency adjustments affected every segment of Sony's business."

A good part of the increase in net income came from a rise in equity in earnings of non-consolidated affiliates to 3,500 million yen from 2,100 million yen in 1975.

—AP-Dow Jones.

PICA stake in Anpa

Private Investment Company for Asia (PICA) SA has acquired a 40 per cent interest in P. T. Anpa International of Indonesia in exchange for loaning P. T. Anpa SMI (about £1.8m). The six-and-a-half year loan has an interest rate of 7.5 per cent above the six-month Singapore Interbank offered rate.

P. T. Anpa will now be owned 40 per cent by PICA, 40 per cent by the P. T. Anpa Group of the Netherlands and 20 per cent by Antara News Agency's sister company, P. T. Antara Kencana.

The loan is being provided by First National Bank in Dallas; P. T. Anpa International Merchant Bankers Ltd, Chartered Merchant Bankers Ltd, and Girard Trenchard & Co. It will be used to construct a \$16.7m office building in Jakarta expected to be ready by late 1979.

Montefibre's problems

Montefibre SpA, of Milan, the loss-making synthetic fibres subsidiary of Montedison SpA, is to discuss with shareholders the company's severe financial and operational problems and measures to overcome them.

In the past few months the company has repeatedly stated that it needs to close down loss-making factories and make about 6,000 workers redundant.

A Montedison board meeting has approved management proposals for measures to improve operating efficiency and cut costs, according to a communiqué issued after a meeting, which gave no details of the proposals.

Pacific Telephone

Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company has reported improved fourth quarter and 12 month earnings reported earlier are uncertain due to continuing regulatory and legal problems. Among the uncertainties cited are huge rate reductions in the last September by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Western Sands

Mr Al Keats, the chairman of Western Sands, of Perth, western Australia, says that he does not believe financial benefits from recent mineral findings will be sufficient to offset the cost of a return to dividends this year. However, he said, the outlook for 1978-79 is more promising and hopefully the company will then return to profit.

The company made a net operating loss of A\$459,000 (about £287,600) and an extraordinary loss of A\$402,000 in year ended June 30.

Increasing costs and tight market conditions will continue to affect all mineral sands producers, and prospects for the current year are not good, Mr Keats said.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	7 1/2%
Barclays Bank	7 1/2%
Consolidated Bank	7 1/2%
First London Sec	7 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	7 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	7 1/2%
London Mercantile	7 1/2%
Midland Bank	6 3/4%
Nat Westminster	7 1/2%
Rossminster Acc's	7 1/2%
Shearley Trust	7 1/2%
TSB	7 1/2%
Williams and Glyn's	7 1/2%

* 7 day deposits on terms of 10,000 and under 1/4% over 250,000.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

The Over-the-Counter Market

1970-77

High Low Comp

44 27 Alparing Ord

150 100 Alparing 18 1/2 CULS

39 25 Armitage & Rhodes

145 105 Burdon Hill

102 48 Deborah Ord

216 104 Deborah 17 1/2 CULS

147 120 Frederick Parker

58 36 Jackson Group

114 35 James Burrough

340 188 John Jenkins

77 57 Twinkl 12 1/2 ULS

70 51 Unilock Holdings

87 65 Walter Alexander

Commodities

COPPER was steady. Afternoon-

Cash was 25.80-25.85 for a metric

tonne, 25.75-25.80 for a short

three months, 25.85-25.90 for a

year, 25.90-25.95 for a year and

three months, 25.95-26.00 for a

year, 26.00-26.05 for a year and

three months, 26.05-26.10 for a

year, 26.10-26.15 for a year and

three months, 26.15-26.20 for a

year, 26.20-26.25 for a year and

three months, 26.25-26.30 for a

year, 26.30-26.35 for a year and

three months, 26.35-26.40 for a

year, 26.40-26.45 for a year and

three months, 26.45-26.50 for a

year, 26.50-26.55 for a year and

three months, 26.55-26.60 for a

year, 26.60-26.65 for a year and

three months, 26.65-26.70 for a

year, 26.70-26.75 for a year and

three months, 26.75-26.80 for a

year, 26.80-26.85 for a year and

three months, 26.85-26.90 for a

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year, 27.70-27.75 for a year and

three months, 27.75-27.80 for a

year, 27.80-27.85 for a year and

three months, 27.85-27.90 for a

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three months, 30.05-30.10 for a

year, 30.10-30.15 for a year and

three months, 30.15-30.20 for a

World rice output

The United States Department

of Agriculture has forecast world

rice production (ready) at a record

527.3m tonnes, compared with an

earlier estimate of 525.5m tonnes.

The forecast is based on a

survey of rice production in

1977, which shows a record

output of 527.3m tonnes, compared

with an earlier estimate of 525.5m

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Money Market

Rates

Overnight

1 month

3 months

6 months

1 year

2 years

3 years

4 years

5 years

6 years

7 years

8 years

9 years

10 years

11 years

12 years

13 years

14 years

15 years

16 years

17 years

18 years

19 years

20 years

21 years

22 years

23 years

24 years

25 years

26 years

27 years

28 years

29 years

30 years

31 years

32 years

33 years

34 years

35 years

36 years

37 years

Stock Exchange Prices

Buildings firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings End, Dec 30. § Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Property developers' tax avoidance scheme fails

Anyev v Inland Revenue Commissioners
Manolescu v IRC
Belton v IRC
Widdowson v IRC

[Judgment delivered December 21]

A series of property and company share exchange transactions which were deliberately artificial devices of great complexity carried out for the sole object of avoiding tax resulted in tax advantages being obtained in consequence of a transaction in securities and thus enabled the Crown to counteract such advantages under the provisions of section 461 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

His Lordship said in dismissing appeals by the taxpayers, Mr Simon Aronson and Mr Victor Manolescu, from decisions of special commissioners that notices issued to them under section 460 (3) were valid. The assessments to income tax for the years 1970-71, based on the sums of £431,300 and £22,700 respectively, were also confirmed.

The scheme involved a widely used "off-the-peg" tax avoidance scheme that involves in total many millions of pounds and was purchased by the taxpayers from specialist advisers in the City.

Mr C. N. Bortle, QC, and Mr D. C. Potter, QC, for the taxpayers; Mr J. E. Vinall, QC, and Mr Brian Davenport for the Crown.

HIS LORDSHIP, in a reserved judgment, said that the question was whether the taxpayers had obtained tax advantages in consequence of a transaction in securities and thus enabling the Crown to counteract such advantages under the provisions of section 461 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

There had undoubtedly been a transaction in securities; the questions which did arise were (a) whether the case fell within any of the sections 461 circumstances, and if so (b) whether the taxpayers had obtained a tax advantage in consequence of the transaction in securities.

The taxpayers owned the share capital of K Ltd, which in 1970 had acquired a property at Boodle's Court, London, for a consideration of £500,000. So as to minimise tax, K Ltd entered into property transactions: it granted to P Ltd, a property company, a six-year renewable lease of the property at full market rent for the purpose of carrying out development work on the premises.

At the same time K Ltd granted a 250-year lease to P Ltd of an acre of land in the City of London for a consideration of £1,309,535 to be paid at the rate of £100 a year for 249 years with a final sum of £1,284,635 to be paid at the end of the term.

Did the bank have notice of the husband's intention? The husband's intention was to transfer the property to the wife, and the bank was not to be bound by the husband's intention.

Whittingham v Whittingham and Another

Before Mr Justice Balcombe

[Judgment delivered December 21]

A wife having a claim under section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, or under section 17 of the Married Women's Property Act, 1881, against property owned by the husband but which has never been the matrimonial home should register her claim under section 5(1)(a) of the Land Charges Act, 1972.

Justice Balcombe, allowing an appeal by National Westminster Bank Ltd from a decision of Mr Registrar Palmer setting aside the wife's legal charge on a house in Alma Vale Road, Clifton, Bristol, said that registration of such a charge was not an effective protection for the wife against any future disposition by a husband.

Mr Joseph Jackson, QC, and Mr Quentin Ivi for the bank; and Mr Roderick L. Dwyer for the wife, Mrs Elizabeth Marie Whittingham (now known by the name of Mrs (Barry) of Hazlewood Road, Bristol.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the property in Clifton was divided into flats and the former wife and the children of the marriage occupied one of the flats. The husband had remarried in February, 1971, and in July, 1971, the wife applied for a legal charge on the property in respect of the flat. In 1974 she applied for an order under the Married Women's Property Act, 1881.

In December, 1971, an order was made by consent that a Class F land charge was to be registered against the property, but it had not been vacated. In June, 1974, the husband executed a deed transferring the property in favour of the bank and gave a guarantee to the bank to pay the mortgage of the property in the event of the husband's insolvency.

On the wife's application for a transfer of property to a transferee under section 17 of the Married Women's Property Act, 1881, the Registrar ordered that the husband should transfer the property to himself and the wife as trustees for sale as tenants in common. He further declared that the parties should build the matrimonial home on the property and that the wife should have a one half for the wife after the discharge of the existing mortgage to a building society but prior to the discharge of any subsequent mortgages or charges, and as to the balance, if any, after the discharge of subsequent charges to the husband.

The wife applied in May, 1977, to set aside the legal charge, in favour of the bank, because it did not act in good faith because it was well known that it was the occupants of the property when it should have investigated whether they had rights. The real issue was whether a transaction was a "relevant disposition" under section 37 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, which provided that any disposition made by a party to proceedings for financial relief (which included transfer of property) was a relevant disposition unless it was made for valuable consideration to a person who, at the time of the disposition, was not a party to the proceedings.

Clearly there was valuable consideration. The bank had acted honestly and there was no good faith by the bank. There was no doubt that the husband, in making the legal charge, had the intention of defeating the wife's claim for financial relief.

2219. The unpaid premium carried interest at current market rates. The purpose behind the lease was to provide for the husband's liability to corporation tax for 250 years by virtue of section 80 of the 1970 Act.

The day after the grant of the lease it was agreed that K Developments should purchase the freehold reversion of the property from K Ltd for £1,000 and the leasehold interest from M Ltd for £1,010,335 (but retaining the benefit of M Ltd's debt for the outstanding premium). Thereafter P Ltd immediately surrendered its lease for £1,000 and K Ltd sold the benefit of M Ltd's outstanding debt to an investment company for full value.

The result was that K Ltd was left with a profit of £440,018, 100p to be free from corporation tax and with corporation tax only payable in 250 years' time.

At some stage K Ltd paid £69,950 to a company that was owned by two persons, Mr C. M. Bradman and Mr Bernard Fowler (who also owned and controlled P Ltd and M Ltd). It had been agreed that the payment for the carrying through of the tax-saving scheme. However, some doubts as to the scheme's effectiveness must have existed because the parties negotiated further transactions, namely the share transactions by which the Crown was able to counteract such advantages under the provisions of section 461 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

Following a Treasury warning in 1971, Section 81 of the Finance Act, 1972, made corporation tax payable on income derived from the carrying through of the tax-saving scheme. But because of K Ltd's distribution of virtually all its assets to P Ltd, it had become unable to make any payment of tax at all. It was in those circumstances that the notices were issued to the taxpayers under section 460 (3) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

The taxpayers' appeals against the notices were dismissed. The special commissioners' decision was confirmed.

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its profits by way of the dividend payment. It was impossible to differ from their conclusion: the taxpayers received P Ltd's liability to corporation tax for 250 years by virtue of section 80 of the 1970 Act.

Were the taxpayers, in consequence of a transaction in securities, in a position to obtain tax advantages? The answer was yes. The taxpayers had obtained a tax advantage by the carrying through of the tax-saving scheme. However, some doubts as to the scheme's effectiveness must have existed because the parties negotiated further transactions, namely the share transactions by which the Crown was able to counteract such advantages under the provisions of section 461 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

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and then distributed to the shareholders the shares so purchased in specie by way of dividend. The taxpayers received P Ltd's liability to corporation tax for 250 years by virtue of section 80 of the 1970 Act.

Were the taxpayers, in consequence of a transaction in securities, in a position to obtain tax advantages? The answer was yes. The taxpayers had obtained a tax advantage by the carrying through of the tax-saving scheme. However, some doubts as to the scheme's effectiveness must have existed because the parties negotiated further transactions, namely the share transactions by which the Crown was able to counteract such advantages under the provisions of section 461 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

The result was that K Ltd was left with a profit of £440,018, 100p to be free from corporation tax and with corporation tax only payable in 250 years' time.

At some stage K Ltd paid £69,950 to a company that was owned by two persons, Mr C. M. Bradman and Mr Bernard Fowler (who also owned and controlled P Ltd and M Ltd). It had been agreed that the payment for the carrying through of the tax-saving scheme. However, some doubts as to the scheme's effectiveness must have existed because the parties negotiated further transactions, namely the share transactions by which the Crown was able to counteract such advantages under the provisions of section 461 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

Following a Treasury warning in 1971, Section 81 of the Finance Act, 1972, made corporation tax payable on income derived from the carrying through of the tax-saving scheme. But because of K Ltd's distribution of virtually all its assets to P Ltd, it had become unable to make any payment of tax at all. It was in those circumstances that the notices were issued to the taxpayers under section 460 (3) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT
 ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OIL FIELDS
 YACIMIENTOS PETROLIFEROS FISCALES
 SOCIEDAD DEL ESTADO
 REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TENDER NUMBER 05-1/77

Buying of Four New Tank Vessels, Unused, to Transport Crude Oil

DEADWEIGHT : 30.000 TO 35.000 TONNES APPROXIMATELY

DRAUGHT MOULDED DESIGN : 36 FEET PLUS-MINUS 2 FEET.

BREADTH MOULDED MAXIMUM : 30 METRES

LENGTH OVERALL MAXIMUM : 125 METRES

Tender will be opened on January 18, 1978, at 14.30 pm, local time, in our headquarters, sited in Avenue Roque Saenz Pena 777 (13th Floor), Buenos Aires, Argentina and simultaneously in our commercial and technical office in Houston (Texas) Richmond Building, Suite 710, 3616 Richmond Avenue-Houston, Texas (U.S.A.) at 11.30 a.m. local time.

Cost of Tender Conditions : US\$2,000.

All questions and the selling must be made in the above mentioned in working dates and hours.

Offers for this tender will be received up to January 17, 1978 at 3.30 p.m. Houston Time.

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY ENTIDAD BINACIONAL YACYRETA

PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS
 AND CONSORTIA OF CONTRACTORS FOR
 CONSTRUCTION OF THE YACYRETA
 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

The Entidad Binacional Yacyreta, constituted in accordance with Article 111 of the Treaty signed on December 3, 1973, by the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Paraguay, will receive prequalification applications from interested parties for the construction of the Yacyreta Hydroelectric Project, located on the Parana River at the Yacyreta Island. The main features of the project are:

INSTALLED CAPACITY :
 1st Stage : 2,730 MW
 2nd Stage : 10 additional units
 Total : 4,450 MW

RATED NET HEAD : 20M
 Volume of concrete excavation and SE : 2,390,000 m³
 Estimated length of dam : 70 KM

This invitation for prequalification is public and international and open to contractors and consortia of contractors who are highly specialized in the construction of large hydroelectric projects. The interested parties must be duly qualified and must have a good reputation in the construction industry. The interested parties must be duly qualified and must have a good reputation in the construction industry. The interested parties must be duly qualified and must have a good reputation in the construction industry.

Applications for prequalification will be received at the place of the opening of the documents, at the Yacyreta Hydroelectric Project, located on the Parana River at the Yacyreta Island, at the Yacyreta Hydroelectric Project, located on the Parana River at the Yacyreta Island, at the Yacyreta Hydroelectric Project, located on the Parana River at the Yacyreta Island.

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